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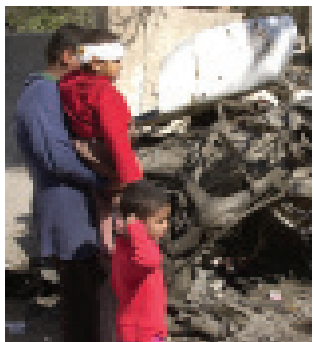
INSIDE



Cancelled Flights

Five U.S.-bound flights from Britain and France were canceled Saturday because of security concerns. The U.S. government said it had fresh indications of al-Qaida's continued interest in targeting commercial planes flying to the United States.

Page 13



US Fatalities

Three U.S. soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were killed Saturday in a roadside bombing near the northern oil center of Kirkuk. Their deaths brought to 522 the number of American service members who have died since the Iraq war began March 20.

Page 17

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Idealism

"Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind... Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth."

— Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 521

See Page 13

Land compensation funds out

CDA, MPLA to release initial money to landowners

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Some landowners will finally get their much-awaited compensation this week, possibly beginning today and tomorrow.

CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar said that he and CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada had signed the request for the first drawdown of the bond money at Bank of Guam last Thursday.

"It should be available by next week," he said after Saturday's board meeting.

Igisomar declined to reveal the initial withdrawal, but sources said that it amounts to some \$5 million.

Igisomar said the initial release should have actually taken place last week but CDA officials were on an urgent trip to Palau.

He said the Marianas Public Lands Authority has already sent CDA a letter asking why its initial request was not acted upon.

"MPLA got frustrated because I was not in town to sign off the request, but that trip to Palau, which required our presence, had been scheduled," he said.

Igisomar and Ada, who were the only CDA officials authorized to sign for the bond money withdrawals, were part of the team that went to Palau last week to

See LAND on Page 8



EDITH ALEJANDRO

MISS TEEN ASPIRANTS

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remeylyn Julene Guerrero, with crown, poses with this year's Saipan candidates, who were presented to the public Saturday. They are, from left, Chanel Cabrera, Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Candidates from Rota and Tinian will be presented at a later date. **Story on Page 5.**

Most ex-SU students are now factory workers

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Former Saipan University students ended up as contract workers, working mostly now in garment factories after the government issued them temporary work authorizations or TWAs.

Left to themselves, the former students are barely making both ends meet

after they were asked to vacate an SU-assigned housing late last month.

Wang Rui, who has served as spokesperson for the group, said he and a friend share a small room in Chalan Kanoa.

He said he could survive because he borrowed \$200 from a former classmate who has found work ahead of him.

Wang, a former electrical firm manager in China, said that he is still waiting

for a prospective employer to call him in. He said, though, that his potential work is not exactly related to his field.

Wang said that as far he knows, most of the 84 former SU students have found work on island. "Most of them are working in garment factory," said Wang.

Wang said they have decided to stay on island pending the resolution of their

See MOST on Page 8

CDA to NMC: Clarify position on Gateway funding

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority wants Northern Marianas College to be single-minded on which agency it actually wants to deal with for its funding needs for the Pacific Gateway Project.

NMC is currently speaking with at

least three local agencies—Marianas Public Lands Trust, NMI Retirement Fund, and the CDA—for interim financing for the project, while also seeking a direct loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

"We want to know where they [NMC] are. If NMC wants MPLT or NMRF, go ahead. Don't negotiate with more people

because it's going to cost government assets. It would require evaluation and this means spending for the project," said CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar.

He said CDA "is willing to be the last resort."

See CDA on Page 8

Dead dolphin found to have fed on seagrass

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Are dolphins on CNMI's waters starving?

An autopsy conducted on a dolphin showed that the creature had fed on seagrass, indicating that it may have had difficulty in catching fish for its prey.

Dolphins are fast-moving aquatic mammals, the jaws of which contain as many as 250 conical teeth. Their teeth are adapted for ripping and tearing prey, not for chewing.

See DEAD on Page 8



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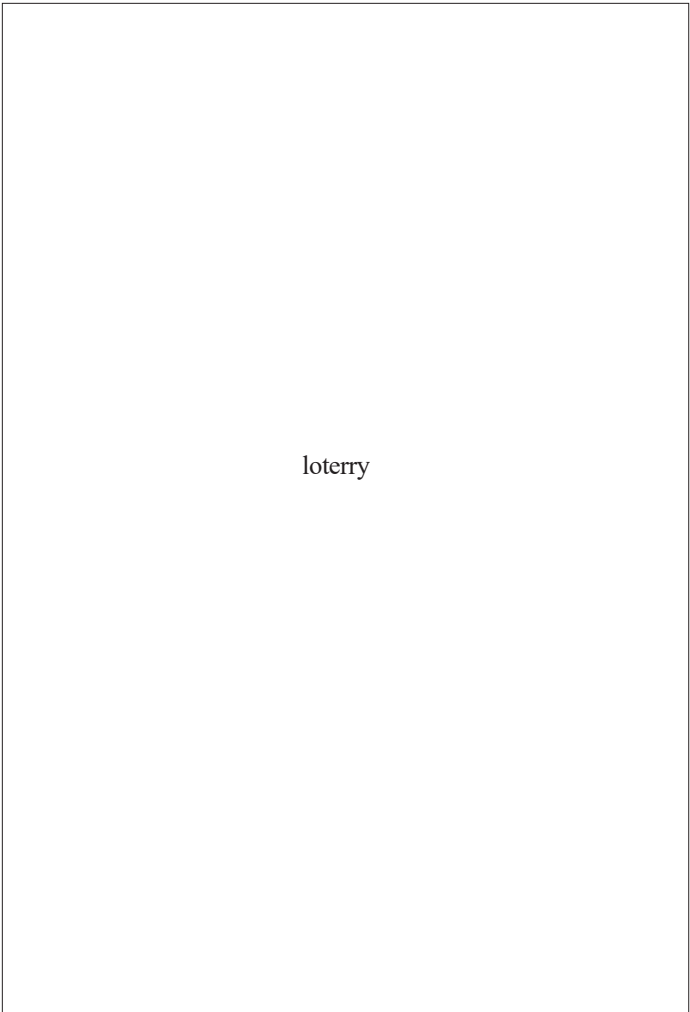


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CDA: No findings yet on Palau Air

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors has begun its feasibility study on Palau Micronesia Air following the CNMI’s commitment to invest \$500,000 in the newly established airline.

CDA officials, who flew to Palau last week, said the agency has yet to make a full evaluation of the project.

CDA board chairman Sixto Igisomar, who convened a board meeting Saturday, said the issue is now being handled by a joint panel: the public finance committee headed by member Edwin Hofschneider and the economic development committee headed by Tom Quitugua.

“The board has not fully evaluated the project. We’ll wait for the recommendation by the joint committee,” said Igisomar.

Igisomar said the board, together with CDA executive director Mary Lou Ada, had a “very hectic” three-day visit to Palau as part of the project evaluation.

He said the CDA team met with Palau government leaders led by President Tommy Remengesau, as well as Palau Micronesia Air executives.

He said that CDA will forward its findings to the Gover-

nor’s Office as soon as possible.

The CNMI Legislature earlier approved a joint resolution supporting the release of \$500,000 to PMA. In particular, the Legislature tasked CDA to borrow the money on behalf of the government from a regional bank, Pacific Islands Development Bank. The money would be used to buy 5,000 shares of capital stock from the airline firm.

Under the resolution, the CNMI government will shoulder the loan repayments.

The resolution also listed conditional provisions before the CDA can proceed with the borrowing:

- CDA must first evaluate the propriety and prudence of borrowing the half-million dollars, and identify where the money to repay the loan would come from.
- The funding source for the repayment of the loan must be approved by the Legislature through a bill.
- The legal ownership of the stocks may be vested in the CNMI government or in any of its constituent entities.
- The Palau government has to first put up the \$1 million it has committed to the new airline firm before the CNMI releases its investment share.

The CNMI government’s half-million-dollar equity in-

vestment in the new airline would entitle it to 10 percent of the company’s shares of common stocks and two seats on the firm’s Board of Directors.

Airline president Alan R. Seid said the money is needed to start the company, build the profit margin, and provide a strong reserve for the future.

Palau Micronesia Air is a corporation chartered under the laws of the Republic of Palau. It had issued 50,000 shares of stocks valued at \$100 per share, for a total initial capitalization of \$5 million.

The airline firm has been seeking subscribers for its stocks

from among governments and individuals in the region. So far it has obtained commitments for \$1.52 million in initial investment from private sources in Palau and Japan; \$500,000 from the Yapese government; \$1 million commitment from the Palauan government as a portion of Palau’s pending loan from the International Commercial Bank of China (Taiwan); \$500,000 commitment from the Pohnpeian government; and \$600,000 reserved for subscription by people in the region.

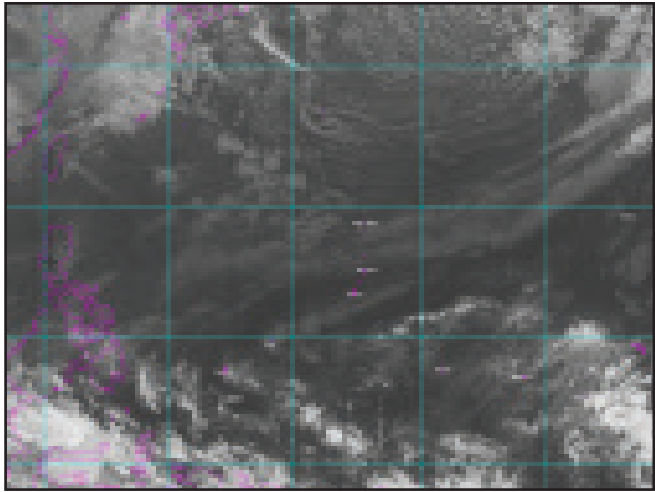
The CNMI government supports the creation of a regional

Saipan Community School’s honor roll in its 2nd quarter

- Grade 6:**
“A” Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA
Adeleyah Mojica
Micaela Demapan
Gyu Ri Kim
- “B” Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA**
Do Hee Kim
Kay Park
Lissane Loyola
Isabel Matsunaga
Sayaka Shimizu
Federico Fernandez
- Grade 7:**
“A” Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA
Champ Untalan
Min Sol Kim
Sung Hee An
Rezne Wong
Victoria Bellas

- “B” Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA**
J.D. Torres
Seong Bin Lee
Jason Quiblat
Min Joo Jung
Dencio Manglona
- Grade 8:**
Principal’s List – 4.00 GPA
O’Ronia Sikayun
- “A” Honor Roll – 3.50-3.99 GPA**
Soo Ji Ha
Soleana Demapan
- “B” Honor Roll – 3.00-3.49 GPA**
Wen Hui Ye
Vianka Johnson
Nam Hoon Kim
Luis Chung

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 1, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches from near 2n137e to the equator near 152e. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located south of Palau and Yap between the Equator and 5n from 130e to 144e. A weak trough of low pressure stretches from 7n167e to the equator near 170e. The trough combined with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers in the southern Marshall Islands south of Majuro between the Equator and 6n from 167e to 180. A frontal system extends southwestward from near 25n157e to near 18n145e then continues as a shear line to near 14n130e. Extensive low clouds and widespread light showers are occurring along and up to 300 miles north of the boundary. Ahead of this boundary...an area of low clouds with light showers are occurring across the Mariana Islands.

SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.

GUAM AND ROTA
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.

PALAU
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

POHNPEI
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy.
Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt.

KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 15

MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
	Auckland	Cloudy	76F (24C)	61F (16C)
	Beijing	Rain	45F (7C)	25F (-4C)
	Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	66F (19C)	59F (15C)
	Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83F (28C)	71F (22C)
	London, England	Partly Cloudy	52F (11C)	46F (8C)
	Los Angeles	Sunny	66F (19C)	44F (7C)
	Manila	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	68F (20C)
	Melbourne	Cloudy	69F (21C)	46F (8C)
	Miami	Rain	80F (27C)	64F (18C)
	New York City	Sunny	32F (0C)	24F (-4C)
	Osaka	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	25F (-4C)
	Paris	Partly Cloudy	49F (9C)	41F (5C)
	Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	38F (3C)
	Rome	Cloudy	54F (12C)	45F (7C)
	Salem, Oregon	Showers	46F (8C)	38F (3C)
	San Francisco	Cloudy	53F (12C)	48F (9C)
	Seoul	Cloudy	43F (4C)	25F (-4C)
	Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	32F (0C)
	Washington, DC	Sunny	34F (1C)	24F (-4C)

2004 Miss Teen CNMI candidates presented

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Give way to the five Saipan candidates vying for the 2004 Miss Teen CNMI crown as they unveiled their plans, dreams, and hopes in joining this year's competition.

The five candidates were presented to the public Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center, where they took center stage to talk about how they plan to help the CNMI's youths through various community-based activities.

This year's candidates are Divana Dela Cruz, Christal Leon Guerrero, Chanel Cabrera, Jerbeth De Leon, and Jocelyn Castro. Winners of the Miss Teen Tinian and Miss Teen Rota would be joining the Saipan candidates during the April 17, 2004 coronation night.

According to Miss Teen CNMI president Noby Crisostomo, Tinian and Rota would have their own Ms. Teen contests—a first—and winners of these contests would be sent to Saipan for the Miss Teen CNMI tilt.

With this year's theme "Bonitas de Islas Marianas," Crisostomo hopes to highlight during the pageant the Spanish influence on the local culture.

"This year's theme is Spanish so we can highlight that part of our culture and tradition that was imparted by the Spaniards. We also hope to bring here what we learned from the Miss Antillas beauty contest," Crisostomo explained.

Miss Teen CNMI 2003 Remylyn Julene Guerrero had competed in the Miss Antillas International Beauty Pageant in Venezuela, where she won second place.

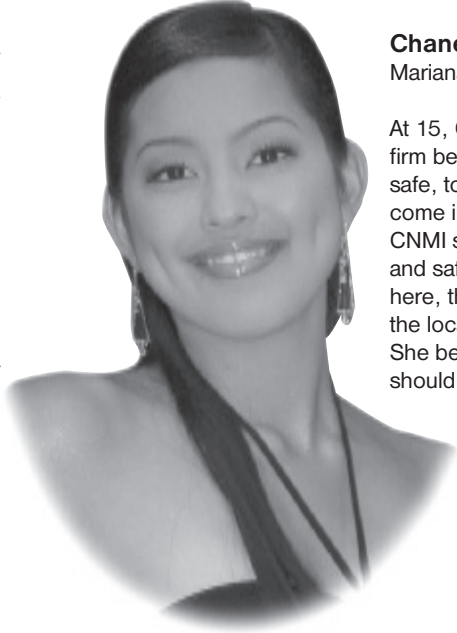
Also present during the media presentation Saturday was House Rep. Janet Maratita, who advised all contestants to face their fears and mistakes. Maratita also vowed to find ways on how to make Miss Teen CNMI candidates active in various community events.

Crisostomo said that after the coronation night on April 17, the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI would fly to Venezuela the following month to compete in the 2004 Miss Antilles International.

He added that winners in the 2004 Miss Teen-CNMI should be physically and mentally prepared to represent the Northern Marianas in the international pageant.

Ms. Teen-CNMI—the local pageant search that capitalizes on the islands' attractive and spirited school-aged girls—was revived in 2002 after five years of dormancy.

Previous winners of the contest are Anita Jones Ayuyu, Cecilia Masga, Cecilia Taitano, Marian V. Pangelinan, and Gina Torres Duenas.



Chanel Cabrera, 15
Marianas High School

At 15, Chanel stands 5'9 and a firm believer that if the CNMI is safe, tourists would continue to come in. She believes that the CNMI should be kept beautiful and safe and once tourists are here, they can be introduced to the local culture and traditions. She believes that the CNMI should be exposed to the world.



Divana Dela Cruz, 16
Marianas High School

If she is crowned Miss Teen CNMI 2004, Divana hopes to organize a group that would help prevent suicide among the youth. Divana said flyers would be passed around to raise awareness in the



Jerbeth De Leon, 16
Marianas High School

Jerbeth is focusing on peer pressure as a problem she believes should be resolved to prevent teens from being involved in alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. She said peer pressure comes in different forms and shapes and continues to haunt the younger

Jocelyn Castro, 17
Kagman High School

Jocelyn joined the contest to build her self-esteem and self-confidence but if she wins, she hopes to work with students with disabilities and help families caring for people with disabilities. Jocelyn said it is hard for parents who have children with disabilities but with proper help, people with disabilities and their families would be more up to meeting these challenges head on.



Christal Leon Guerrero, 15
Kagman High School

Christal said that if she wins, she would do her best to join and establish organizations that would prevent domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Christal will also try her best to promote the local culture.



cars

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Dishonoring the dead

What's perhaps most shocking about the arrest of a University of California Los Angeles official accused of trading in parts of donated human bodies for his own profit is that it should have proved so shocking to university officials.

According to Ernest V. Nelson, a human-tissue broker, Henry G. Reid, the director of the university's willied body program, gave him access to the program's freezers twice a week for six years, permitting Nelson to cut up cadavers and take parts away.

It is illegal to profit from the sale of body parts. UCLA officials, however, have had ample warning that such transactions are all but inevitable without aggressive oversight.

The criticisms started in 1996, when families of donors filed a lawsuit claiming that UCLA had mishandled cadaver remains for several decades after it started the world's first donation program in 1950. They continued three years later, when the director of UC Irvine's cadaver-donation program was fired after allegedly selling six cadaver spines to a Phoenix research company.

These shady activities are encouraged by federal laws that, although forbidding sales, allow generous body-preparation, or "service," fees. The law's failure to explain how to assess such fees needlessly blurs the line between philanthropy and profiteering. The commercial exchange of human bodies has soared in recent years, largely because of inconsistent federal policies and poor oversight.

Entrepreneurs—for instance the companies and middlemen who supply skin for grafting—say the rules are too sweeping in prohibiting markets for lifesaving human tissues. Rather than pass more prohibitions, the government might serve both donors and researchers by setting strict guidelines and regulating the trade that occurs.

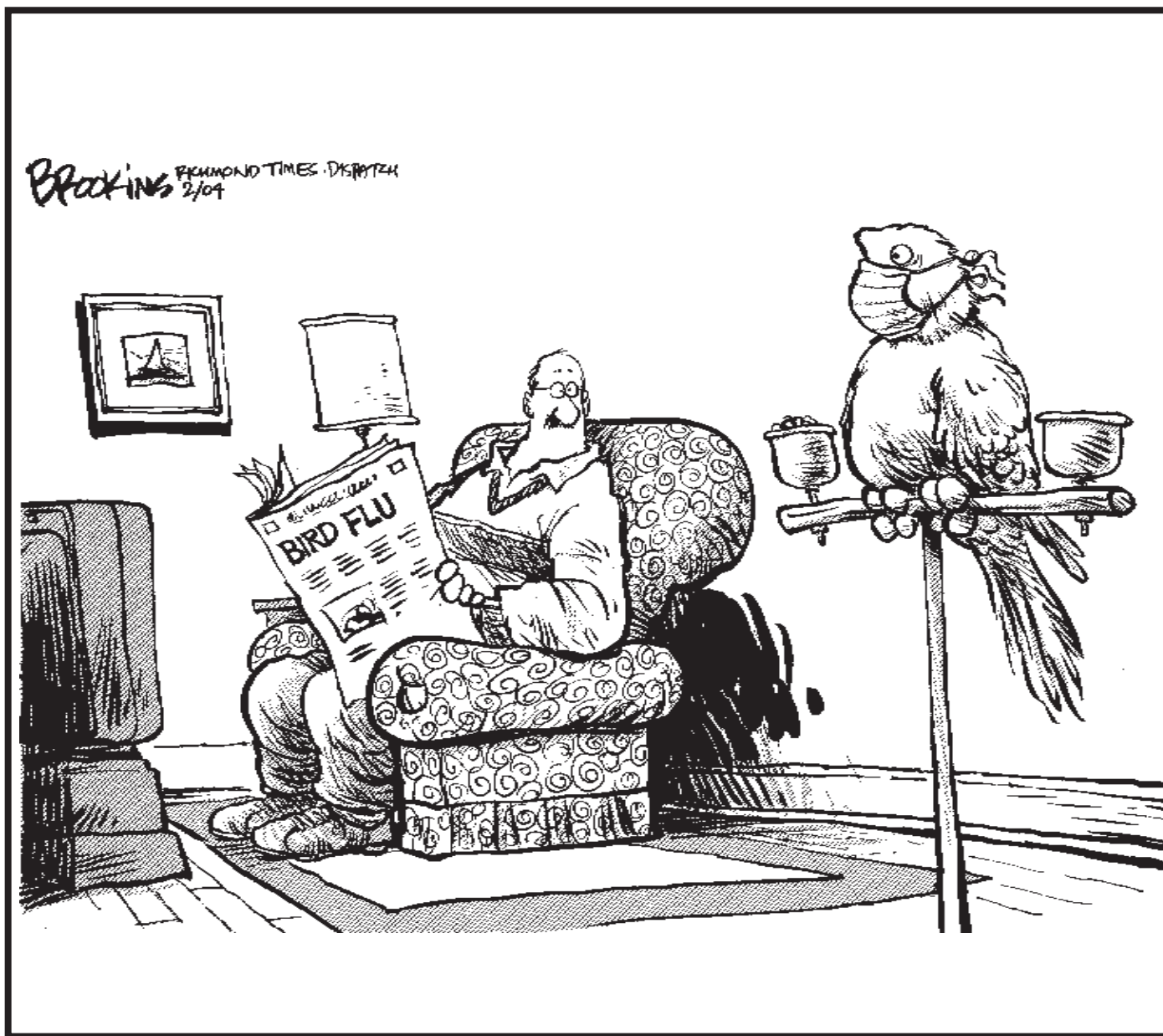
UCLA medical school officials say they won't decide whether to reopen their willied body program until they receive a report from former Gov. George Deukmejian, who has agreed to oversee an administrative investigation and suggest reforms.

Meanwhile, there are obvious things they and other medical schools could do, including having discussions with bioethicists and biomedical companies about whether open commercial exchanges can be safely regulated.

Cadavers come from generous people who wanted their remains to do good. Most donors and their families probably wouldn't mind if the university made a few dollars while the bodies still benefited research. But they deserve honesty.

The current situation—body parts being traded in a sort of biomedical Wild West, with few sheriffs and lots of shady characters—deceives families that have placed

2004, Los Angeles Times



How to click with those who see voting as so last century

By CATHERINE GETCHES
Special to the Los Angeles Times

It was Super Tuesday when I realized that the Urban Outfitters' tee that had at first annoyed me was actually true. "Only Old People Vote," the shirt declared in my generation's ironically detached way. It was true—voting made me feel more of a nonmember than a participant in the political process. I cast my ballot in one of the area's oldest elementary schools, where I signed in with an election volunteer wielding a magnifying glass. And when she had trouble finding my name she joked about alphabet amnesia, having "learned the ABCs so darn long ago." I took a ballot from a man sipping from a can of Ensure, and I was handed a dried-up Sharpie by a silver-haired woman who kept the cap as insurance on its return.

I wondered if the word "primary" was a nod to the primitive voting system and if these three attendants were at this pioneering polling place when it all began. I pictured my paper ballot racing to the counting location via Pony Express in time for that night's results. And for the first time, I wished life was more as it was on "American Idol." If vast numbers of people can be motivated to vote for contestants who are simply interested in being heard, why is it so hard to get people to act in behalf of candidates who have a message?

If I can transfer money via phone, publish photos straight from my cellphone to the Web and instant-message a vote along with millions of others to elect an Idol, why can't there be a safe and modern system in place for selecting the country's leaders? And why do we think the current system is so safe? At my polling place, no ID was required, just knowledge of my name. My privacy was subject to the voice level of the attendants, and the cereal box-like contraption that was to conceal votes from wandering eyes was hardly fool- or snoop-proof.

When my mom was my age, she voted in every election. At 27, she was loosening up to rock and roll, but she was also firmly against the Vietnam War and active in protests. There was incentive to vote, she says, because men between 18 and 26 could be drafted. These days, "sit-ins" don't really register, but look at how many of us can come together for no reason. We meet up in moblogs, our potent expression of cellphone solidarity.

With the click of a mouse, thousands of people can tune in to our

online tirades, where we can expound on everything from our fears to the consistency of our last caffe latte.

Perhaps we do need something like the plan by California state Sen. John Vasconcellos to give 14-to-17-year-olds in California a fraction of a vote. With less than 4 percent of the people between the ages of 18 and 29 voting in the last election, it's clear that young people are not being reached in their medium. My mom often asks: "Doesn't anybody your age care? Are you all so complacent?" And I counter with what I hear so often: "What's the point? Where's the incentive?"

In 1990, a few years before I first voted, Rock the Vote seemed pretty cool. But these days, out-of-date RTV artists such as Donny Osmond just aren't pumping me up for the polls. Today, when I stand in line for a Rock the Vote concert, all I see is the disconnect between the clipboard-armed Rock the Vote Street Team outside and the ear-ringing levels of music inside.

The same thing is true of efforts such as the competition that asked teams of teenagers from across the country to devise strategies for presidential candidates to reach the youth vote. One team came up with handing out condoms and hairbrushes emblazoned with "Kerry Cares." Another group created an ad showing the Bush tax cuts paying for DVD players and Members Only jackets. The competition's sponsor called it "on target" to have "the president embrace the bling-bling lifestyle."

Wouldn't the money be better spent on electrifying the voting process instead of trying to prop up the political process with current fads?

If voting were less of a cross between the SAT and going to the DMV and more like taking an online survey, it might be more appealing. This year is already a testament to the power of political Web logs and other Internet enterprises.

Just look at the assertion on Rock the Vote's Website: "16 percent of Americans who vote are under 30. That's enough to sway an election or two."

It seems that all we need is a medium that meets us on our terms. If the click of a mouse can charm us to a chat room where even Howard Dean's scream won't scare us away, then why does getting involved in the political process feel like being handed an eight-track when you're used to your iPod?

Bloody, to what end?

By FREDERICA MATHEWES-GREEN

“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” asks the old Gospel hymn. Mel Gibson’s powerful film, “The Passion of the Christ,” has brought many viewers “there,” and I rejoice with those who say it deepened their faith. I can understand why this film moves them so much. But I don’t think they understand why a fellow-believer might prefer a different approach. It seems to them that any less-than-graphic portrayal is weak — “sanitized.”

But is that the only way to see it? Here, for example, are two paintings made early in the 17th century. The one with the golden background represents the Eastern Christian tradition, and is by the iconographer Emmanuel Lambardos of Crete. The other, emblematic of Mel Gibson’s Western tradition, is by the Dutch painter Hendrick ter Brugghen.

The ter Brugghen Christ sags like a corpse, and he is corpse-colored, yellow and gray. Blood spills from his hands and side in streams of muted red. His face is bent in shadow, but his straining arms, bloated abdomen and perfectly articulated knee catch the metallic light.

If you look at the knees of Lambardos’ Christ you see two little circles. This painting doesn’t even attempt realism. Christ’s long, thin arms are open as if in offering. He stands on the foot platform weary but unbroken. His face is folded in sorrow, yet tranquil, and a spot of rose lingers on his cheek. All around him angels reel in awe.

The ter Brugghen is a better painting. Or is it? It’s more “realistic,” but that presumes that “reality” is what a news camera would capture. The icon tradition of the Christian East flavors images with deliberate “unreality” in order to preserve the inexpressible: manipulated perspective, geometric landscapes, golden backgrounds.

These two approaches represent different answers to the question, What does Christ’s suffering mean?

In medieval Europe, the idea arose that God could not simply forgive our sins; there had to be a payment. Christ paid this debt on the Cross. Others objected that Christ’s sufferings were not a payment but an example of love for us to imitate. In either case, the Passion became crystallized as the moment of salvation, and we were called to identify with Christ’s suffering.

The Eastern Church, however, maintained an earlier understanding. Here, God the Father does not need payment, and Christ is much more than an example. Instead, our salvation involves a real change in our being, a rescue from a state of decay. Christ’s Incarnation permeated our common life to restore God’s intimate, immediate presence. His resurrection destroyed death, freeing us from the darkness and misery that enslave mankind. In this story, the Passion plays an extraordinary part, but it is not the sole decisive moment.

Christ lives, and we live in a continuing interior communion that will assimilate us with his light and transform us to be like him. We don’t dwell on the idea that he is like us; the energy is all going in the other direction. We would not presume to identify with him, as if we understand what he’s going through and figure he feels about it like we would.

Ter Brugghen presents Christ’s gray body within arm’s reach, and John gazes at it in rapture. But in the icon the golden body is lifted high, reigning over heaven and earth. We cannot begin to understand what is transpiring here. Like the stricken angels, we cover our mouths.

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Washington is a wall of polished granite displaying thousands of names. But might someone say, in accord with the view of the Gibson film, that if we haven’t seen the suffering, we’re not taking it seriously enough? Let’s add a photo next to each name, showing the person at the moment of dying, blown apart or bleeding. Since we don’t have those photos, we’ll put look-alike actors in makeup, with latex wounds and fake blood. If we honor soldiers for dying, well then, let’s watch them die.

If your friend died in Vietnam, you would not want him treated that way. Why not give Jesus the same dignity?

Mel Gibson’s movie stands in a great tradition of Western art. But realistic depiction comes with a price. To turn a great sacrifice into specific images will inevitably reduce it. It turns it into an ordinary horrible act, the kind humans inflict on each other every day, pressed down to manageable size. As we fix the memory we cease to experience it. We turn it into something we can digest and explain.

But we cannot understand the Cross. If you were there, experiencing every moment with every sense, you still could not tell what transpired or how it swept through your soul.

Were you there? I don’t have a photo of what it was like. But as the old hymn says, “Sometimes it causes me to tremble.”

Mathewes-Green is a columnist for Beliefnet.com

Much ado about parking

Once saw a coffee table pictorial essay on hanging laundry clothes across American backyards. For such an ordinary subject, the author/photographer managed to create a work of art that lassoed my attention. No such literary promise on this one. It is only about me and a couple of mundane parking lots.

It was the other Friday when my wife and I to forego the kitchen and visit a Thai restaurant we used to frequent in San Antonio. Not exactly Greenwich in Manhattan but the parking was equally bad, three abreast into the sidewalk. Next door was an empty parking lot of a clothing store where a denim shirt on display caught my attention. I told my wife: “Let’s go eat and check out the clothes after dinner.” We parked.

Five steps away from the vehicle and a sourly looking gentleman stepped out of the store to inform us that we could not park in front of his store.

Looking him straight in the eye, and casting him my most praetorian look, I pulled out a calling card and told him that if he wanted to tow my vehicle away, or call the police, he was welcome to do so.

Whence the uncharacteristic obstinacy?

Five days before, my wife and I went to a laundromat along Msgr. Martinez Road in Koblerville. We parked next to the icebox of the Fresh Market store.

The other lanes were fully occupied. I got the day’s paper from the store, which we also patronized for laundry supplies, so I did not hesitate to remain parked in front of the store. While perusing the tabloid next to a car with young Carolinian children in the back seat, the storekeeper came out to inform the children to get their elder(s) who presumably were in one of the other store fronts (Café on one end and Fresh Market on the other, with a Poker game room and the laundromat in between). He told them that they were not allowed “long term” parking in front of his store.

Evidently, the ice deliveryman wanted to unload directly in front of the icebox, unwilling to make the additional five steps to carry his load from an empty lane. The Carolinian children did not move as they were perhaps, instructed by their elder(s) not to get out of the car. Wanting to be helpful, I offered to move my car. I made a mistake of prefacing my offer with the observation that customers could not just be arbitrarily told to move out of a public parking space.

My use of the word “public” triggered the storekeeper’s claim that we were in a private parking space. He proceeded to point to the property line dividing public access and the commercial store boundary. I was under the impression, I said, that providing parking space is a requirement for a license to be issued to a store serving the public. Ergo, the parking space, though sitting on private property, had become public space.

My syllogism was perhaps, faulty. Clearly, it was lost on the exasperated Korean proprietor who did not hesitate to verbally assault my unwelcomed interference. I moved my car to an empty spot on the other side of the Carolinian car so the deliveryman could unload his ice.

Bantering in Korean, the deliveryman, the storekeeper and his young wife, who had been alerted by the ruckus, and had come out to try to pacify her irate husband, spaced their banter with glances to my direction. I was not comfortable. My colleagues at the Korean Church further down the road will testify to my unusual “romance” with the Land of the Morning Calm. I had been accused on occasion to out-sarang hae even the natives. My demonstrated prejudices do not include the Koreans.

The young proprietor was relentless. He followed me with a question on why I was angry with him. I responded as calmly as I could that the subject was about the use of the parking lot. In response

Thinking outside the box on a running mate for Kerry

By JIM SHEA

The Hartford Courant

John Kerry is looking for a vice president.

In the past, all this involved was finding someone to balance the ticket regionally, or philosophically, or in the case of Gore-Lieberman, vertically.

But that was before Dick Cheney.

To match up with the Wizard of Oz, you not only have to be able to run, but hide.

What Kerry needs is a running mate who can bring something unique to the ticket.

Pamela Anderson comes to mind, but that might be a little too unique. So whom should Kerry be thinking about at this point? Here is the short list:

John Edwards: Great candidate if it weren’t for that thing he has on his lip, which would become just too big a distraction as the campaign went on.

Bubba the Love Sponge: The Florida-based shock jock, who just lost his radio gig for being (1) vulgar, and (2) not funny, might tip the balance in the evenly divided Sunshine State by steering the young, male, moron vote into the Kerry camp.

Education Secretary Rod Paige: Security is going to be a big issue in the campaign, and the Bush appointee brings some impres-

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.



to his wife’s holler, which I recognized as a call to desist from further discussion, the storekeeper went into a long tirade in Korean, his discourse peppered with the word “Filipino.”

With hands on his waist, he finally ordered me to vacate his parking space.

Suspecting (my *Hanggul* is limited to ordering *Bulgogi*) that the couple may have had a previous unhappy experience with Filipinos, I properly bowed to the wife and ask her to call 911 before voice decibels fly out of the sound barrier and tempers got out of hand. By then, customers from the other storefronts, alerted by the commotion outside, spilled out to watch what was going on.

A female police officer showed up. She asked what the problem was, listened to our accounts, and admonished us that this was a small matter. Surely, we could amicably resolve it ourselves, she added. I agreed. She left. Frayed nerves temporarily allayed, it was then that I noticed two gentlemen, not too far from both sides of me, get off from hastily parked vehicles, wearing sunglasses like stereotyped muscles in a Jackie Chan movie. Their sights were fixed on me.

The proprietor acknowledged their presence and returned to his store.

Either I have an excessively developed melodramatic sense but I felt an icy chill down my spine imagining the sinister looks that must be behind the frosted glasses about to make minced *kim chi* off my short stature. Then, one of the alerted “cavalry,” perhaps deciding that the threat had been neutralized, got back on his vehicle and left. The other moved his vehicle to the Cafe end of the parking lot.

I moved my car to a vacated lane fronting the Poker game room, something I would not normally do since I avoid giving the impression that I, or someone drying my car, frequent game rooms. The driver of the van who had moved in front of the Cafe, alighted and came closer to my car, arms folded across his chest like an menacing DMZ guard on the lookout for Kim Il Sung’s lackeys.

I got out of my car and nodded to the young chap. “Is there anything I can do for you, young man?” Then, customers came pouring out of the Cafe.

The “bully” moved to open his door for the customers. I found out later that the van ferried tourists from their hotel to the Cafe. The young man, a relation to the storekeeper’s wife, attended to his trip. Needless to say, my wife and I will not cast our shadow on the building ever again.

Oh, the Thai restaurant? My wife, accustomed to ordered regimentation in mainland China, kept looking out of the window and badgered me to move our vehicle lest the clothing store proprietor did something to it. Irked by the nagging, plus the delay to get a table, I called it a night.

Crowded parking lots always attract any consumer’s curiosity, a point our merchant had obviously never considered. Were he I, I would have used my customer service tone and welcomed restaurant clients to use his store parking lot, and invite us, should we be inclined, to visit his store after dinner. To his credit, he did not summon a tow truck, or the police.

sive credentials. Remember, it wasn’t the FBI or the CIA but Paige who fingered the National Education Association and its 3 million teachers as terrorists.

Mel Gibson: Not only would Mel be popular with conservative Christians, but he’s a fund-raising genius. This guy not only has people flocking to his crucifixion flick, but he’s got them buying nails for \$12.99 a pop.

A NASCAR driver: Everyone is saying NASCAR dads are the new soccer moms, so what better way to lure this vote than with a popular driver. My suggestion would be the guy who drives the race car sponsored by Viagra. He would also attract NASCAR granddads.

Antonin Scalia: Imagine the advantages of having a vice president who is also a member of the Supreme Court.

Al Gore: He’s got experience, good name recognition, would be highly motivated and he already has all the right color clothes.

Dennis Kucinich: If you want to capture the women’s vote, the ticket can only benefit from the addition of a proven babe magnet.

Sam Seaborn: Good-looking, smart, articulate, he’s got it all. Granted, he’s a fictional former character on the “West Wing,” but most people wouldn’t pick up on that.

Donald Trump: Yeah, I know, the hair would be a problem. But picture this scene: “Cheney, you’re fired.”

Shea is a columnist for The Courant.

CDA
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Business

Business

Nation

U.S. steps up hunt for Bin Laden

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
AP WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The American military stepped up efforts to find Osama bin Laden and destroy his al-Qaida and Taliban supporters, announcing Saturday a major new sweep across lawless southern and eastern Afghanistan involving thousands of troops.

The military insisted their net will eventually close on the al-Qaida leader, who has vanished since melting into the Afghan mountains months after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

A spokesman said the new operation also will prepare the way for reconstruction in impoverished provinces along the Pakistani border - a reward the military hopes will loosen villagers' tongues.

"It's certainly about more than one person," Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said. "We do have confidence, though, and the leaders of al-Qaida and the leader of the Taliban need to be brought to justice - and they will be."

Afghan officials hailed the new push and said their forces were fully involved.



bin Laden

"They are trying to eliminate the enemies of Afghanistan and the enemies of the world," said Hilalludin Hilal, the deputy interior minister in Kabul.

American commanders have vowed to crush militants and snare bin Laden as well as Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar this year, with a combination of military might and desperately needed aid.

But they face enemies - estimated at less than 1,000 active fighters by a top U.S. general this week - that present no easy target, moving in small groups and preying on civilians, including aid workers and minor government officials, as well as military targets.

Hilferty said the new operation, which began Sunday, would continue tactics already employed by the 13,500 U.S.-led troops tracking militants more than two years after the fall of the Taliban.

That includes frontier patrols, house-by-house searches and surprise checkpoints and air assaults.

"We believe this will help



U.S. soldiers guard a group of Afghans at a roadside checkpoint Friday, March 12, 2004 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Despite intense efforts by Pakistani, U.S. and Afghan military forces, Afghans insist that the border remains an open door for Taliban crossing into Afghanistan to carry out attacks.

bring the heads of the terrorist organizations to justice, by continuing placing pressure on them," Hilferty said.

Troops carried out an air assault in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, but Hilferty would not give details, saying soldiers were still on the ground Saturday.

He declined to say how many soldiers would be involved in the new operation, but said they

would have air support "24 hours a day, circling overhead ready to assist."

An Afghan army commander in southern Kandahar province, Haji Granai, told The Associated Press that U.S. aircraft killed 12 suspected Taliban in a pickup truck there Thursday.

Granai said the planes struck in Maruf district, some 160 miles

east of Kandahar city, where suspected Taliban killed seven Afghan soldiers in a March 3 raid on a border post.

The U.S. military had no immediate comment.

Hilferty played down suggestions by Washington officials that the military was embarking on a "spring offensive."

"If it continues past March 21, I assume it will be a spring

operation. But spring offensive is what the media have been calling for, not us," he said.

But there are signs that forces were adding muscle.

The number of U.S. soldiers has risen by some 2,500 since late last year, an increase officials attributed to a new headquarters in Kabul and new security teams placed in provincial capitals.

But the military has not denied reports that members of Task Force 121, a crack unit of special forces and CIA agents which helped corner Saddam Hussein, have arrived from Iraq to beef up the search for bin Laden.

The new U.S. offensive is also supposed to safeguard landmark Afghan elections slated for June, when U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai is expected to secure a new term.

More than 140 people have died in violence already this year, underlining security fears ahead of the vote.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top American commander in Afghanistan, has said his soldiers are engaged in a "hammer-and-anvil" strategy along with Pakistani forces on the other side of the border.

Some 70,000 Pakistani troops have moved into semiautonomous tribal regions in an effort to take

Washington pushes Iraq toward sovereignty

WASHINGTON (AP)—With less than four months before a deadline to transfer Iraqi sovereignty to the people, the Bush administration has dispatched a senior White House official to Baghdad to help form an interim government - action that's needed before any handoff of power.

In Baghdad, coalition spokesman Dan Senor identified the official as Robert Blackwill, deputy national security adviser for strategic planning at the National Security Council staff. Senor says Blackwill visits Iraq every four to six weeks.

This time, Blackwill is working to resolve problems some Shiite members of the Iraqi Governing Council have with the interim constitution the council signed on Monday, a senior administration official said Saturday. He also is tasked with convincing the Iraqi Governing Council to let the United Nations help set up elections, which are scheduled to be held before the end of the year.

"We're trying hard just to get the U.N. to play a role in helping us work with the parties in the region to come up with a way forward to elections and a way forward to an interim government," Secretary of State Colin Powell told the National Journal in an interview on Friday.



A US troopers in their humvees prepare to conduct patrol at Tikrit, 180 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, Iraq Saturday March 13, 2004. A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded three others Saturday, the first casualties suffered by a U.S. Army regiment taking over security in Saddam's hometown as part of a giant troop rotation in Iraq.

The United States wants the United Nations to return to Iraq to help figure out how to form an interim government. The United Nations recalled its diplomatic staff after suicide bombings rocked its headquarters in Baghdad in August and October.

Earlier this week, an influential Shiite cleric suggested that parts of the interim constitution encroached on the powers of a future elected parliament. Some members of the governing council who belong to the majority Shiite group say they may

propose changes or revisions to the interim document they just signed because they fear it means they'll eventually lose power under a new government.

Meantime, a growing number of lawmakers are worrying out loud about the Bush administration's ironclad deadline for handing over political control to Iraq this summer, with even Republicans questioning who will rule and whether the Iraqis will be up to it.

But Powell was insistent that the U.S.-led occupation will end

by July 1.

"We are staying in charge of this until the 30th of June under the CPA (Coalition Provisional Authority) and on the 30th of June, it will be handed over, not to the U.N., but to an Iraqi government," Powell said.

The United Nations, then, can play a more active role in helping the new Iraqi government prepare for elections, he said.

2 firefighters killed in Pa. church fire

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Two firefighters were killed and 29 were injured Saturday when a church on fire collapsed as they tried to put out the flames, officials said.

Five firefighters suffered serious or critical head and chest injuries when the roof of the Ebenezer Baptist Church collapsed Saturday morning, said city Operations Director Bob Kennedy. At least one was undergoing surgery at a Pittsburgh hospital.

"There's every indication that there was an electrical fire in the basement that jumped up the walls and spread rapidly," Kennedy said.

Firefighters entered the building about an hour after the fire started to douse hot spots,

Kennedy said.

The fire then "flashed over," engulfing the sanctuary, and the roof and steeple collapsed, trapping the firefighters, he said.

Emergency crews located the firefighters' bodies in the rubble, Kennedy said. He did not release their identities but said one was a battalion captain.

Firefighters at the scene removed their helmets and turned off warning lights on their vehicles in tribute as each body was removed.

The senior pastor of the church, the Rev. J. Van Alfred Winsett, told Pittsburgh television stations that the congregation was preparing for a breakfast when the fire started.

Four shot dead in suburban home in Dallas

MCKINNEY, Texas (AP)—Four people were killed after being shot in the head at a home in this Dallas suburb, police said Saturday.

Police were called after a man who lived at the home discovered the bloody scene Friday night. Authorities did not yet have a suspect.

Rosa Barbosa, 46; Mark Barbosa, 25; and Austin York, 18, were pronounced dead at the scene late Friday, Capt. Robert Dean said.

Matthew Self, 17, was taken by medical helicopter to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, where he died Saturday, Dean said.

Police said no other information was immediately available Saturday.

"They were just real fine people," said Bill Self, 68, a relative of Matthew Self and the neighbor of Rosa Barbosa. "She's been a good neighbor. There's never been any trouble that we know about."

AP: Rumsfeld has Sept. 11 souvenir debris

By JOHN SOLOMON
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The removal of souvenir debris from the scenes of the Sept. 11 attacks reached the highest levels of government, including Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and FBI Director Robert Mueller's chief of anti-terrorism, a Justice Department investigation has found.

The practice was so widespread inside the FBI that it even forced prosecutors in Minnesota to drop plans to prosecute a company that had taken a fire truck door from the World Trade Center, according to a still-confidential report obtained by The Associated Press.

The report said the Justice Department inspector general confirmed that Rumsfeld "has a piece of the airplane that flew into the Pentagon" inside his Defense Department office.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said Friday night that Rumsfeld has a shard of metal from the jetliner that struck the Pentagon on a table in his office and shows it to people as a reminder of the tragedy. Pentagon workers shared on

Sept. 11, 2001.

"He doesn't consider it his own," Di Rita said. "We are mindful of the fact that if somebody has an evidentiary requirement to have this shard of metal, we will provide it to them."

Asked whether Rumsfeld's possession of the shard was similar to FBI agents who have been criticized for taking mementos from the World Trade Center, Di Rita said: "It was never that kind of thing. ... It seemed perfectly appropriate."



Rumsfeld

The Justice Department investigation also collected testimony that Pasquale D'Amuro, Mueller's executive assistant director for terrorism until last summer, asked a supervisory agent to "obtain a half dozen items from the WTC debris."

D'Amuro told investigators that he asked for pieces of the building for himself and possibly others who worked the investigation "as a memento." He added he was aware that agents had taken such items from other terrorist crime scenes over the years.

D'Amuro left FBI headquarters last July to become an assistant director in charge of the

New York office. Joe Valiquette, a spokesman for the New York FBI office, declined comment Friday.

The report also divulged that the FBI supervisor for evidence recovery at the landfill where World Trade Center debris was taken failed a lie detector test and that agents' removal of items like a Tiffany crystal globe gutted a criminal case the bureau was building against a Minnesota contractor that had taken a fire truck door from the same rubble.

Prosecutors told the FBI they "might not indict the crime regarding the fire truck door due to government misconduct involving the Tiffany globe," the report said.

Surviving family members were disappointed by the news.

"Unbelievable," said William Doyle, whose son was killed in the World Trade Center.

"Everybody has things that they probably should not have from the World Trade Center site," added Sally Regenhard, whose firefighter son died in the towers.

The Justice Department's report has not been officially released, but heavily deleted versions of the report began circulating around Washington last month showing 13 FBI agents had taken rubble, debris and items such as flags and a Tiffany crystal



AP

A heavy pulley wheel from the elevator mechanism, mangled doors from police vehicles and aircraft spare tires pulled from the ruins of the World Trade Center are seen in a trailer next to an FBI warehouse in Philadelphia Monday March 8, 2004. A Philadelphia-based FBI agent hailed by some as a hero for his work overseeing the grisly task of sifting human remains from the fallen towers has been under a cloud since U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley accused him and other agents last month of taking items from rubble as souvenirs.

globe paperweight.

The bureau announced it was banning agents from taking items from crime scenes, but no agents were being charged with crimes because the bureau did not have such a policy during the Sept. 11 investigation.

A lawyer for retired agent Jane Turner, who blew the whistle on the FBI's removal of souvenir debris, said agents should have been charged.

The amount of theft from

Ground Zero by federal officials is shocking," attorney Stephen M. Kohn said. "Every federal employee who stole or converted property from that crime scene must be held fully accountable under the law."

The full report obtained by the AP divulges some senior FBI managers were among those cited for having authorized or asked for mementos.

Besides D'Amuro, the re-

port said the now-retired head of the New York FBI office, Barry Mawn, asked for and received an American flag and a piece of marble from the debris. And the agent in charge of FBI in Knoxville, Tenn., Joe Clark, requested and received a 100-pound piece of steel to display in an exhibit dealing with hate crimes, the report said.

The report stated FBI agents who worked in New York repeatedly expressed their disgust that

9 bodies, 10 coffins found in Fresno home

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
AP WRITER

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Police discovered nine bodies intertwined in a pile of clothes at a Fresno home and 10 coffins stacked along a wall, and were trying to determine if some ritual was involved in the slaughter.

A 57-year-old man surrendered to police after walking out of the house covered in what appeared to be blood.

The victims were seven children ranging in age from 1 to 8, a 20-year-old woman and a 17-year-old girl. All were thought to be the children of Marcus Wesson, whom police handcuffed following a brief standoff.

Authorities said Saturday that Wesson had been arrested on suspicion of killing the victims, but wouldn't comment until an afternoon news conference on what charges prosecutors might file.

The grim scene caused even veteran officers to weep.

Police Chief Jerry Dyer wiped tears from his eyes as officers carried the bodies from the home, cradling the youngest ones in their arms.

"I've been with the Fresno Police Department for 25 years, and I've never experienced anything of this nature," he said.

Dyer said the victims probably were Wesson's children. "There may have been some type of ritual involved," he said.

Officers were originally called



AP

Shown is a single-story home in Fresno, Calif., Saturday, March 13, 2004 where police discovered nine bodies in a tangled pile in the back bedroom on Friday.

to the scene Friday afternoon for a child custody dispute.

Ten coffins lined a wall inside the home's front room. The bodies were so entangled in a pile of clothing that it took hours for investigators to reach a final count, police said.

The police chief declined to say how the victims died, but the scene was so gruesome some of the first officers into the house were placed on administrative leave and were being counseled Friday night.

Six police chaplains were at the house throughout the evening as detectives continued to gather evidence.

Officers were called to the home Friday afternoon by two women who said a man had their children and would not

release them.

The man initially ignored orders to come out, running into a back bedroom as two other women fled the house. They were unharmed.

Police believe the suspect fathered the victims with the four women. They did not identify the women or the victims.

A neighbor, Chris Tognazzini, said he heard two gunshots moments before police arrived.

Dyer said the women who called authorities told them they had given custody of their children to Wesson two years ago and now wanted them back.

The slayings shocked authorities in Fresno, a city of 440,000 about 190 miles southeast of San Francisco. Dyer said the city had seen three murders in the last 2

1/2 months, the fewest number for a 10-week period in more than three decades.

The nine deaths represent the largest mass killing in this San Joaquin Valley city since 1993, when seven people were killed in rural Fresno.

"The only thing we can do now is mourn. We mourn for the kids, we mourn for the police," said Mayor Alan Autry. "We will never be the same again."

Wesson had a strong influence on his sons, said Florian Tan, who in 2001 took over the martial arts school where three of the sons attended classes.

Each boy had to earn a black belt in aikido in order to leave home when he reached manhood, Tan said.

"They said they had to go through his program," which included martial arts training, Tan said. He added that two of the sons, now in their twenties, earned black belts and a teenage boy is still enrolled at the school.

Neighbors who milled around outside said they knew little about Wesson or the house where a large yellow bus was parked in the driveway.

"He never said 'Hi,'" said Linda Morales. "I'd drive by and he'd make a point to turn his face."

Another neighbor, Johnny Rios, said that on many nights he heard loud banging coming from the house, as though the people inside were building something.

"There was something up over there," Rios said.

Teen kills deputy, self in Tennessee siege

LENOIR CITY, Tenn. (AP)—The teenage son of a prosecutor killed a sheriff's deputy and barricaded himself in his home before he was found dead inside Saturday with an apparently self-inflicted gunshot to the head, officials said.

Michael Harvey, 16, was found in an upstairs bedroom of his lakeside home, said Loudon County Sheriff Tim Guider. He said the teenager had been dead for up to 20 hours.

Harvey fired on SWAT team officers Friday afternoon from the home, where he had semiautomatic weapons with multiple 30-round magazines. No shots were fired after that, authorities said.

"As hard as we worked to make contact and as patient as we were, we were hoping for a different resolution," Guider said.

Harvey's father, Frank Harvey, is an assistant district attorney for Loudon County.

The confrontation started Friday morning when officers went to investigate a domestic violence complaint from the boy's mother, who had fled to a neighbor's house. She allegedly was attacked with a pipe when she refused to let the boy drive to school after drinking the night before.

The first officer to arrive,

Deputy Jason Scott, was fatally shot as he stepped out of his car, Guider said. He was shot four times, and a second officer retreated under fire and called for backup.

"Deputies answered the call not knowing there were any weapons in the house," Guider said.

A SWAT team once made it into the garage before turning back, and robots sent into the house were blocked by obstacles. Four officers suffered minor injuries from debris when the teenager shot at them as they hid behind a woodpile.

Officers fired tear gas into the house but got no response, and the teen did not answer calls or efforts to contact him over loudspeakers. Some of Harvey's relatives went to the scene trying to coax him into coming out, a spokeswoman for the Loudon County sheriff's department said early Saturday.

The boy's mother was treated at a local hospital and released.

Scott, 24, was a three-year veteran of the department whose wife is expecting their first child. Through tears, Guider described him as "a wonderful young man, very lively, very friendly, very outgoing."

Ed Sullivan, Harvey's youth minister at United

Asia

Thousands protest S. Korea impeachment

By HANS GREIMEL
AP WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Thousands of angry South Koreans held candlelight vigils across the country to protest the historic impeachment of their president on Friday. An interim head of state known as “Mr. Stability” took control, pledging to keep foreign and economic policies on an even keel.

The spontaneous evening protests were peaceful but underlined widespread dismay at a political crisis that has rattled a nation already juggling the North Korean nuclear standoff, a sluggish economy and a tumultuous run-up to hotly contested parliamentary elections next month.

The presidential impeachment was a first in South Korea, and the vote followed hours of televised shoving matches in which lawmakers battled for control of the assembly’s podium, throwing elbows and pulling hair. Security guards forcibly removed screaming supporters of President Roh Moo-hyun who tried to block the vote by commandeering the rostrum.

Prime Minister Goh Kun, who assumed executive powers from Roh, spoke of the need to “stabilize the people’s lives and ensure that the country’s international credibility will not be damaged.”

In a phone call to Secretary of State Colin Powell, Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon stressed the government’s commitment to continuity. He told Powell there would be no change in Seoul’s policy toward North Korea and that the government would “maintain its close alliance with the United States,” according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

The 66-year-old Goh, who held various posts under six successive governments, earned the nicknames “Mr. Stability” and “Master Administrator” for his

ability to survive military coups, civic unrest and parliamentary machinations.

Goh will perform the executive duties until the Constitutional Court rules on whether to unseat Roh, a decision that could take six months. The opposition-controlled National Assembly voted Friday morning to impeach Roh on the grounds of illegal electioneering and incompetence.

By Friday evening, protests erupted around the country, including rallies in Seoul, Busan, Taegu and Kwangju. Police estimated about 12,000 Roh supporters gathered outside the capital’s National Assembly, waving candles and chanting, “Impeachment is null and void!”

Riot police parked buses bumper-to-bumper to block protesters from marching on parliament.

Fueling the rallies was a widespread perception that the opposition Grand National and Millennium Democratic parties launched the impeachment bid for political gain ahead of nationwide parliamentary polls April 15.

Polls taken by broadcaster KBS and Yonhap news agency both found that 70 percent of South Koreans thought the impeachment was wrong. The KBS poll’s margin of error was 3.3 percentage points; Yonhap’s was 3.07 percentage points.

Roh, a 57-year-old former human rights lawyer, came to office last February on a populist ticket that promised South Koreans better relations with communist North Korea and a more equal footing with the country’s biggest ally, the United States.

His 13-month tenure was dogged by corruption scandals, but Friday’s vote was a crowning embarrassment for the feisty, independent leader.

Government leaders called emergency meetings to chart a stable course amid concerns the upheaval would fan the ongoing crisis over North Korea’s nuclear programs or undermine the



Protesters show their cards reading, “Nullify Impeachment,” during a rally against the impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun by opposition party lawmakers in downtown Seoul Saturday, AP

South’s fragile economy.

Roh took power promising to continue his predecessor’s “Sunshine Policy” of engagement with North Korea. South Korea has backed the idea of offering the communist North aid in return for a nuclear freeze and dismantlement.

North Korea watchers agreed the impeachment wouldn’t alter the South’s basic policy, but said it could lead to Seoul’s taking a harder line toward the North - especially if a new leader takes office.

“If there is any effect, Seoul may become a bit more stern toward North Korea,” said Park Joon-young, a politics professor at Ewha

Women’s University in Seoul.

South Korea heightened its military vigilance against the North on Friday but the Defense Ministry said it saw no signs of unusual North Korean troop movements. On Saturday, U.S. Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, was scheduled to meet Defense Minister Cho Young-kil.

Investors recoiled and sent the country’s KOSPI stock index tumbling 5.5 percent at one point. It closed down 2.5 percent. South Korea’s currency, the won, fell by about 1 percent, closing at 1,180 to the dollar.

The opposition-backed impeachment motion had cited Roh’s alleged mismanagement



Roh

Moderate earthquake shakes Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A moderate earthquake shook southeastern Taiwan on Saturday, the Central Weather Bureau said. No damage or injuries were reported.

The 5.1-magnitude quake was centered under the ocean about 17 miles east of Chengkung, the weather bureau said.

Chengkung is a town on

Taiwan’s sparsely populated southeast coast, about 125 miles southeast of the capital, Taipei.

Temblors frequently rattle Taiwan, but most are minor and cause little or no damage. However, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in central Taiwan in September 1999 killed more than 2,300 people.

DD COUNCIL
CMYK

Survivors meet for Iwo Jima anniversary

By ERIC TALMADGE
AP WRITER

IWO JIMA, Japan (AP)—When Gordon Ward first hit the black-sand beach at Iwo Jima as a 23-year-old U.S. Marine, the air was alive with the crash of naval guns and buzz of bullets. The next day, he was on the beach again, this time with the bottom of his leg nearly blown off and a medic dead on top of him.

"The medic was trying to get me ready to be evacuated," said Ward, now 80, of Kensington, Md. "But a shell blew him up before he could get me to safety."

Fifty-nine years later, Ward and 24 other veterans returned here Friday for a memorial and reunion with three Japanese who also survived the battle for Iwo Jima - one of the bloodiest fights of World War II and a victory for Americans that came more than any other to symbolize the Pacific conflict.

The battle of Iwo Jima - the name means Sulphur Island - in February-March 1945 was crucial for both sides. The Volcano Islands, of which Iwo was a part, were 700 miles south of Tokyo and part of the capital prefecture, thus the first part of Japan proper to be invaded.

The Americans wanted its three airstrips as a way station for long-range bombing raids on Tokyo, and for the soon-to-come

invasion of Okinawa.

Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot dead volcano at the tiny, tear-drop-shaped island's southern tip, was where five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised the flag on the third day and were immortalized on film by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. The iconic image eventually was translated into bronze for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., bearing the inscription, "Uncommon Valor Was A Common Virtue."

The annual Iwo Jima gathering, which began in 1985, is a low-key event, with few media invited - partly because the Japanese consider it sacred ground with many wandering souls of unrecovered dead. It draws speakers ranging from former Japanese prime ministers to top U.S. military officers.

The tradition may be fading, however, as the veterans of the three Marine divisions that fought for Iwo Jima are now in their 80s and less able to travel. Japanese veterans of Iwo have always been in short supply as fewer than 1,000 of the island's 22,000 defenders survived the 36-day battle in February-March 1945.

"I won't be able to make this trip again," said 85-year-old William Leverance, of Orlando, Fla., who was hit by a mortar round on the fifth day of fighting. "I'm just

glad to be able to come back and see it again. Without the bodies and bullets."

Leverance traveled with assistance from a wheelchair. Ward, who said this was his third and last visit, brought along his 15-year-old great-grandson.

In 36 days of fighting that began with a fierce naval bombardment and invasion on Feb. 19, 1945, nearly 7,000 Americans were killed - the highest percentage of casualties in any Pacific battle. Tokyo surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

"Sixty years ago, this spot ran red with blood and the screams of agony and death filled the air," said Kiyoshi Endo, who commanded a Navy garrison on Iwo Jima. "Now, we have tranquility and peace."

Still, the scars of battle remain along the pristine basalt sand beaches and the picturesque Suribachi. Except for a now-vanished U.S. loran station, the postwar inhabitants have been Japanese self-defense force personnel.

The island has two memorials - one marking the spot of the famous flag-raising atop Suribachi, and the other on a site above the beach, installed in 1985 on the 40th anniversary of the invasion, to

Iwo Jima also remains an



open grave.

Though most of the American dead have been accounted for, about 8,400 remains have been recovered since Japan's government first began searches in 1952. Every year, more Japanese remains are found in the island's countless caves, craggy volcanic plains and dense, almost impenetrable brush.

"Since the number of Japanese soldiers who died on the island is nearly 22,000, we've recovered fewer than half," said Masaru Tajima, a Health Ministry official. "But we'll continue until we find them all."

Today, about 400 Japanese soldiers live permanently on Iwo Jima. The U.S. military pulled out years ago, though the Navy continues to train pilots on an airstrip set up like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.

Japanese and U.S. service members hold the national colors during the 59th Commemoration Ceremony of the Battle of Iwo Jima held on the island, about 1,120 kilometers (700 miles) southeast of Tokyo, Friday, March 12, 2004. Fifty-five American survivors returned here Friday for a small memorial and reunion with three Japanese who also lived through the fight, one of the bloodiest of World War II.

AP

Malaysian PM predicts easy election win

By PATRICK McDOWELL
AP WRITER

KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi predicted a landslide election victory next week against Islamic fundamentalists, as police fanned out across the country to separate rival supporters at the start of the campaign.

Abdullah, seeking his own mandate after longtime leader Mahathir Mohamad retired and handed office to him four months ago, got off to a strong start as thousands of candidates filed their formal nomination papers for the March 21 election.

At least 14 parliamentary and seven state assembly candidates for Abdullah's secular National Front automatically won seats when no one ran against them, giving Malaysia's new leader a highly symbolic edge before a single vote is cast.

The rest of the 219 parliamentary seats and 505 state assembly seats will be decided by voters. The 14-party National Front is all but assured a two-thirds majority in the national Parliament for the next five years.

"This shows that there are signs that the National Front will win big, God willing," Abdullah said in Kepala Batas, his parliamentary seat in the northern state

of Penang, after filing his papers.

The polls will also gauge whether Islamic fundamentalism is still gaining strength as a political force three years after Malaysia began to arrest suspected terrorists, some of them alleged members of al-Qaida and its Southeast Asian ally, Jemaah Islamiyah.

The National Front finalized a campaign manifesto promising to develop a "progressive, modern" version of Islam.

But the manifesto requires Muslim primary school pupils to learn Arabic and read the Quran - something currently not mandatory - in what appears an attempt to silence fundamentalist criticism over the withdrawal of public funding for private religious schools.

The funding was cut amid heightened terrorism concerns after Sept. 11, 2001, when the government accused private religious schools of fomenting extremism.

Election officials told The Associated Press that one fundamentalist won a state seat in Johor, a National Front stronghold, when the Front's candidate submitted incorrect papers and was disqualified.

Police separated rival crowds Saturday at registration centers across Malaysia. No violence or arrests were reported, though

crowds jostled police in some places and shouted at each other behind barricades.

Several thousand National Front supporters marched two miles from Abdullah's family home in Kepala Batas to a multipurpose hall where he arrived by car to file his papers.

Police erected barricades to keep the National Front crowd about 50 yards from hundreds of backers of the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, but some Front supporters broke through. Police evicted them as helicopters hovered overhead.

Both sides dispersed peacefully once the nominating process concluded.

Nationwide, more than 50,000 police officers backed by dogs, water cannon and helicopters are being deployed through the campaigning week.

The electoral battle will focus on the north, dominated by the ethnic Malay Muslim majority, where the fundamentalists captured a second of Malaysia's 13 state governments in 1999 and are looking to add a third.

Kazakhstan train to link China, Europe

BEIJING (AP)—Kazakhstan plans to build a rail link between China and Europe, state-run media reported Friday.

The 1,930-mile railway project was announced by Kanat Zhangaskin, vice president of the Kazakhstan National Railway Co., Xinhua News Agency reported from Hong Kong.

Zhangaskin was visiting Hong Kong seeking investment for the \$3.5 billion

project, which is to be completed within four years, the report said.

The rail link would speed overland travel and transport between China and Europe. Currently, branches of Russia's trans-Siberian railway provide the only rail link between China and other parts of Asia to Europe.

Overland, the trip takes about 10 days. Most goods are now shipped by sea, which takes about three weeks.



AP

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi waves to supporters as his son, Kamaluddin Abdullah, walks next to him at the nomination center in Kepala Batas, in Malaysia's northern state of Penang, on Saturday March 13, 2004. Kamaluddin Abdullah made his first public comments on the month-old scandal as he accompanied his father to a registration center in this rural northern district, where the premier filed his candidacy papers for the March 21 general elections.

World

Israel to push ahead with unilateral moves

By JASON KEYSER
AP WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel will push forward with plans to withdraw from some Palestinian areas and draw its own borders if a summit between Israeli and Palestinian leaders next week doesn't revive a peace plan, an aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Saturday.

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders tentatively agreed to meet Tuesday if a final planning session goes well on Sunday.

Meanwhile Saturday, Is-

raeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian militants who were crawling through an off-limits zone toward a fence separating the Gaza Strip from Israel, the military said.

The men were armed with assault rifles, 10 grenades and a pipe bomb, and apparently planned to cross the fence to attack an Israeli farming village, the military said.

A long-delayed first summit between Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia will focus on jump-starting the U.S.-backed "road map"

peace plan, stalled since it was launched last June. The plan aims to end more than three years of fighting and create a Palestinian state next year.

But neither side has met first-phase requirements under the plan, which was drawn up by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

The Palestinians have refused to crack down on militant groups that have killed more than 450 people in suicide

bombings alone, in addition to staging numerous shooting attacks. And Israel has not gone ahead with troop pullbacks or frozen construction in Jewish settlements built on land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that Palestinians want for their future country.

Amid the deadlock, Sharon has threatened to pursue unilateral moves to "disengage" from the Palestinians. Israel would pull troops and settlers out

of nearly all of Gaza and perhaps also parts of the West Bank. Israel would then draw its own temporary border with the West Bank, but one that would leave the Palestinians with much less land than they seek.

Palestinians fear Sharon's plan is to pull forces out of Gaza, but further entrench Israel in large parts of the West Bank, making it impossible to create a viable independent state there.

There are also suspicions that Sharon's talk of unilateral moves means Israel is quietly abandoning the concept of a ne-

gotiated solution to generations of Mideast conflict.

For now, Israel is pursuing both the peace program and its plan for a unilateral separation if the road map leads nowhere.

Palestinian officials also said the road map plan would be at the center of the summit.

A high-ranking Palestinian official said the two leaders would form committees to work out a timetable and logistics for an Israeli troop pullback to lines held before fighting broke out in September, 2000. The road map calls for such a pullback.



Sharon



Iraqis walk past a crater created by an explosion in central Tikrit that killed two US soldiers while on patrol Saturday March 13, 2004, about 112 miles (180 km) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq.

Iraq roadside blast kills 2 more American soldiers

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP)—A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded three others in Saddam Hussein's hometown Saturday, and U.S. forces responded by making several arrests and dispatching troops into the streets in a show of force.

Also Saturday, the White House said it sent a senior official to Baghdad to help form an interim government - action that is needed before sovereignty can be transferred to the Iraqi people by June 30.

In Baghdad, coalition spokesman Dan Senor identified the official as Robert Blackwill of the National Security Council staff, who visits Iraq every four to six weeks.

Blackwill was sent in part to resolve problems some Shiite members of the Governing Council have with the interim constitution signed by the council Monday, a senior administration official said. He also is charged with convincing the

Governing Council to let the United Nations help set up elections, which are scheduled to be held before Dec. 31.

In Baghdad, a bomb planted in a shop killed Haidar al-Qazwini, brother-in-law of a Shiite member of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, an aide to al-Jaafari said.

Iraqi police Capt. Abbas Nima said an unidentified man entered the shop and left a bag containing explosives, which later detonated.

In the Tikrit attack, the slain soldiers were the first casualties suffered by the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, which took over control of the restive Sunni Triangle town of Tikrit on Saturday.

The soldiers, based in Germany, have been in Iraq for less than a month and formally took over security duties in the Tikrit area several hours after the fatal 5 a.m. blast.

H A N M I

Tape ties al-Qaida to Spain blasts

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP WRITER

MADRID, Spain (AP)—In a videotaped message, a man purporting to represent al-Qaida claims the terrorist network was behind bombings that killed 200 and wounded 1,500 in Madrid, the Spanish interior minister said Saturday.

The tape - along with the arrest of three Moroccan and two Indian suspects - provide the strongest indication yet of a possible Islamic link to the attack on one of Washington's staunchest allies in Iraq. The Spanish government, however, said it could not confirm the tape's authenticity.

The announcement by Interior Minister Angel Acebes came just hours before polls were to open Sunday in general elections weighed down by debate over who carried out the attack.

"We declare our responsibility for what happened in Madrid exactly 2 1/2 years after the attacks on New York and Washington," said the man, according to a government translation of the tape, which was recorded in Arabic. "It is a response to your collaboration with the criminals Bush and his allies."

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

A London-based Arabic newspaper had earlier received

a claim of responsibility in al-Qaida's name; but the government has been reluctant to blame the Islamic group, saying the Basque separatist group ETA was also a suspect. ETA denied responsibility.

Speaking at a hastily called post-midnight news conference at the interior ministry, Acebes said authorities could not confirm the claim was genuine. He said the videotape was discovered after an Arabic-speaking man called a Madrid TV station and said where it could be found.

A statement from the ministry said the speaker was identified as Abu Dujan al Afghani. Acebes said he claimed to be the military spokesman of Al-Qaida in Europe, but said he was not known to law enforcement authorities in Spain, and that they were checking the tape's authenticity.

The man threatened further attacks in the video.

"This is a response to the crimes that you caused in the world, and specifically in Iraq and Afghanistan, and there will be more if God wills it," the man said, according to the Spanish government's translation.

Thursday's attacks in Madrid came just days before Sunday's general elections in Spain. At demonstrations Saturday, some protesters said they believed the ruling party was playing down

the possible link between the bombings and Spain's role in Iraq, fearing it would hurt the party's chances in the election.

About 5,000 people protested Saturday outside the ruling party headquarters in Madrid, holding up signs saying "no more cover-up."

One banner read: "Aznar, because of you we all pay."

"Maybe now the truth will come out," Fernando Hernandez, a college student, said after hearing about the arrests. "All we want is the truth."

Earlier Saturday, Acebes said the five suspects were arrested around Madrid. A spokesman for the Moroccan government identified the three Moroccans as Jamal Zougam, 30; Mohamed Bekkali, 31, a mechanic; and Mohamed Chaoui, 34. All three are from northern Morocco, but the government gave no further details about them.

"One might have connections with Moroccan extremist groups. But it is still very early to establish to what degree," Acebes said. He did not name any group.

The five suspects were arrested after a gym bag packed with explosives and a cell phone was discovered on one of the four bombed rush-hour trains, the minister said. The attacks killed 200 people and injured 1,500.

Two Spaniards of Indian

origin also were called for questioning but are not expected to be arrested, Acebes said.

Spanish citizens were among 33 people killed by suicide bombings that targeted Jewish targets and a Spanish restaurant close to the Spanish consulate in Casablanca, Morocco in May 2003.

Those attacks were blamed on Salafia Jihadia, a secretive, radical Islamic group thought by Moroccan authorities to have links to al-Qaida. Twelve suicide bombers also died.

Just months ago, a taped threat thought to be from al-Qaida terror chief Osama bin Laden had included Spain among countries that could be attacked "at the appropriate time and place."

A confirmed Islamic extremist involvement in the Madrid bombings could play into the hands of Aznar critics who opposed sending 1,300 peacekeepers to Iraq.

"If it was al-Qaida, this was a reprisal for sending troops to Iraq, where we have no business being," said Damian Garcia, whose 86-year-old father died in the bombings.

The government had sought to dampen such speculation. Acebes said earlier Saturday that autopsies conducted on victims showed no signs of suicide bombings - a hallmark of Islamic militants.

Pressure mounted for answers. The crowd outside the Popular Party headquarters chanted, "We want the truth before voting."

Aznar's hand-picked candidate to succeed him, Mariano Rajoy, charged that the rally violated a law banning political demonstrations on the day before an election.

"Thereby demand that the organizers of this illegal demonstration end this antidemocratic act of pressure against tomorrow's elections," he said.

Hours earlier, the opposition Socialists charged that Rajoy himself violated the law by urging voters in a newspaper interview Saturday to give an absolute majority in Parliament.

Rajoy was only 3-5 percentage points ahead of Socialist candidate Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero before opinion polls were stopped before the blasts in the last week of campaigning.

The massive police hunt for the bombers focused in part on a stolen van found with seven detonators and an audiotape of verses from the Quran. A witness told Associated Press Television News he saw three suspicious men go from the vehicle to a station where three of the four bombed trains originated.

The men wore coverings on their faces but "it wasn't cold ... I thought it was very strange," said the man, who did not want to be

named. "They went into the train station ... I tried to follow one of them but I couldn't because he was very fast."

The attack's lethal coordination - 10 explosions within 15 minutes - pointed to al-Qaida.

The compressed dynamite used in the attacks, however, is favored by ETA, which has killed more than 800 people in four decades of bombings and assassinations to carve out an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain.

ETA attacks have never been as deadly as the Madrid bombings and mostly targeted police and politicians. On Friday, a caller claiming to represent ETA told a Basque newspaper it was not responsible - the first time ETA is known to have denied an attack.

The death of a man in a hospital overnight pushed the toll up to 200 Saturday. Of the 1,511 injured, 266 remained hospitalized - with 17 in critical condition.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, only the Bali bombing in Indonesia in October 2002 was deadlier, with 202 people dead. The Madrid attack was Europe's deadliest since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed 270 people.

A steady stream of hearses carried coffins in and out of Madrid's biggest funeral home, Tanatorio Sur. The sprawling

Grieving Madrid bids farewell to the dead

By MAR ROMAN
AP WRITER

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Jose Ramon and his wife, Teresa, a couple for 10 years, used to ride the train together every day to work.

On Saturday, their coffins lay side-by-side surrounded by flowers in Madrid's biggest funeral home. They were among the 200 people killed when 10 backpack bombs ripped through Madrid rush-hour commuter trains Thursday.

The Tanatorio Sur mortuary, a sprawling rectangular red-brick building, has individual parlor facilities for 60 coffins - usually, plenty of room. It was overwhelmed Saturday, two days after Spain's biggest terror attack.

The coffins of Jose Ramon Moreno Isarch, 37, and Maria Teresa Mora Valero, 36, were in a room normally used for staff meetings.

Outside, a steady stream of hearses carried coffins in and out all morning. Other bodies were taken to Madrid's second funeral parlor, which has room for 27. Sports complexes in outlying towns took the overflow.

Distraught families filtered through Tanatorio Sur, checking lists of victims' names displayed on two monitors at the entrance



Relatives and friends, who did not wish to be identified, bury a victim of the train bombings at Madrid's South cemetery Saturday March 13, 2004. An estimated 198 people were killed in Spain's worst terrorist attack when bombs were placed in commuter trains in the Spanish capital on March 11.

to see which rooms held their loved ones.

Dozens of counselors in white coats and Spanish Red Cross volunteers helped as they could.

"Every story is a drama. We have to help without getting involved. We have seen grandparents of dead grandchildren, fathers whose sons and daughters are gone and their friends. These are tough experiences," said No-

elia Olmo, a Red Cross worker. Antonio Palacios, a counselor, said, "Up to now people have been in pure shock."

Now "they have to start facing the reality that their loved ones are dead."

The 200 dead included 32 foreigners from 12 countries, Madrid's government said. Most lived in Alcala de Henares, a town 12 miles from Madrid, or

in bedroom communities along the route from there to the capital.

At a Catholic Mass on Saturday at an Alcala sports complex, 800 mourners prayed for the victims. Two coffins were placed before a makeshift altar.

U.S. marines kill at least two in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—With anger growing over a U.S.-led peacekeeping operation, relatives of two people slain by American troops wailed in grief Saturday while other Haitians demanded the United States return ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the country.

Aristide, in exile in the Central African Republic since Feb. 29, was planning fly to Jamaica in the next few days to visit his family. He has claimed he was forced out by the U.S. government.

A delegation of American and Jamaican officials - including Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., and a representative of Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson - was scheduled to leave Miami later Saturday on a charter plane for Central African Republic to bring Aristide to Jamaica, activist Randall Robinson told The Associated Press. Robinson said he also would be on the plane.

Haiti's new prime minister, Gerard Latortue, has warned that Aristide's return to the region would only increase tension in Haiti, and said he would not meet with the ousted

leader. Aristide, who left Haiti on amid a bloody rebellion, planned to stay several weeks in Jamaica visiting with his family.

U.S. Marine Maj. Richard Crusan said the two men killed late Friday during a Marine patrol were gunmen who had previously fired on the soldiers, although their weapons were never recovered. Witnesses said the dead were bystanders. "The Marines have very strict engagements of a target," Crusan said. "Did they hit other people? I doubt it."

However, at the tin shack home of 18-year-old Frantzy Louis, in Belair, relatives wailed and hugged each other, looking at pictures of the dead boy and saying he wouldn't have been holding a gun.

Residents identified the other victim as Dread Pasteur, 29, and said it was possible more than two people were killed in the gunbattle.

Several people also were injured in Friday's gunbattle. One was Evans Dubuisson, 17, who said he was shot in the side after crossing the street to buy candles for his family.

Gunbattles erupted, meanwhile, in the seaside slum of

Health & Fitness

Fatter toothbrushes? Just hold it right there

By ANNIE GROER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Paddy Bowman is having a minor, albeit irksome, design crisis at her Alexandria, Va., bungalow, and it involves the common toothbrush.

The classic Oral-B brush with a straight, plastic handle—which she has used faithfully for decades and which slips so neatly into her bathroom holder—has been shoved off store shelves by bulkier brushes sporting what Bowman calls “big, fat, rubber handles.”

Her brush of choice was “getting a little harder to find and suddenly they are gone. Usually, I would agonize whether I would get lavender or aquamarine. Not anymore. Whenever I see them, I buy them all. Right now I have five left.”

She first noticed the trend several years back when daughter Katie Michaels, now 20, brought home a “Humvee-size toothbrush that made her feel like she was doing a better job of cleaning her teeth.”

It would not fit in the holder under the family medicine chest. So they put it in a cup, only to discover that “the toothbrush goop that accumulates in the bottom becomes a primordial soup that could give birth to new life forms.” Eventually, a big-handled brush belonging to a beau—who prefers not to append his name to discussions of oral hygiene—joined the sink-side clutter.

“It’s like when Coke changed,” laments Bowman, 56, a folklorist who studies cultural traditions. “I never thought Oral-B would betray me.”

Clearly, one woman’s problem is another’s progress. Bigger proved to be better for consumers because the molded handles are easier to grip, says Michele Szynal, communications director for Oral-B, which calls itself the world’s largest toothbrush producer.

“We found out they weren’t that comfortable using most brushes with square, flat handles that were digging into your palm. At the time, everyone was making everything ergonomic. You might think there is a lot of over-designing in this brush, but the longer you hold it, the better, because you should be brushing your teeth for two minutes, twice a day,” says Szynal. “This brush was designed so you would brush your teeth longer.”

Despite anecdotal evidence from Bowman and others that the slimmer models seem to have vanished, Szynal says they remain top sellers for Oral-B. “If you are not that oral-care involved and you are going down the aisle and you see one for \$3.99 and one for \$1.99, you will buy the less expensive one,” she explains about the slender models. Moreover, dentists often give them to patients.

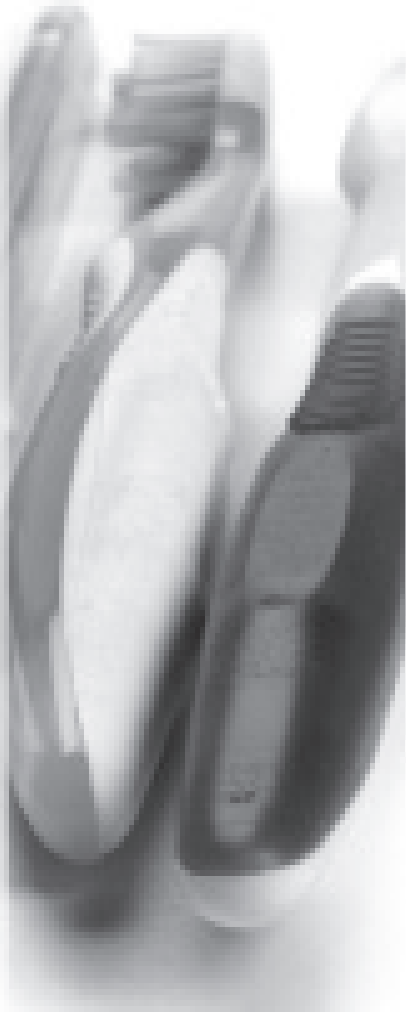
It is not clear where the ancients stored their toothbrushes, the earliest ones believed to have been made in

China of boar bristles affixed to bamboo or bone handles between 609 A.D. and 1498 A.D. According to a traveling exhibit that originated at the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, other major moments in toothbrushdom were easier to document:

The first U.S. patent was granted in 1857. By 1894, brushes sported serrated bristles and an added design feature: a hole in the handle’s end so they could hang from a hook to dry. The 20th century saw such advances as celluloid handles (1900), the first motor-driven model (1938), nylon handles and bristles (1940), corded electric and cordless toothbrushes (1960s), electrical rotary-action (1987) and sonic and ultrasonic versions (early 1990s).

In 1998, in the midst of the ergonomic design revolution, Oral-B launched Cross Action, the industry’s first wide-handled model, says Szynal. That redesign grew out of extensive, expensive market research involving 4,000 consumers and 600 dental professionals who debated everything from tuft length to head angle. seeking a place to park these big brushes, so in 1999, the company offered a Cross Action stand. “But soon people figured out they could use a cup,” says Szynal.

Say hello to the law of unintended consequences, muses Henry Petroski, a Duke University engineering professor



Toothbrushes with oversize handles are replacing the traditional slim-line models.

and author of “Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design,” which examines the impact of everyday objects on our lives. He included a chapter on oversize toothbrushes after seeing an article about how they had outgrown conventional holders.

Petroski himself uses a Cross Action. “I like the feel of it.” So his wife found “this little stainless steel corrugated thing that sits on the counter that may have been intended as a soap dish.” In another bathroom, his toothbrush rests in a glass where “all the gook collects on the bottom. I have learned to shake it off in the sink first so it doesn’t wistfully.

By contrast, Starck calls the toothbrush holder for Icon bathrooms—where units will top out at \$8 million—“just equipment to go with the toilet brush and soap holder.”

But will that gleaming silver cup prove large enough for a passel of Paddy Bowman’s elusive Oral-B’s or similar substitutes? Indeed, she has just learned about Prevent Care Products Inc. in Point Pleasant, N.J., which sells “slim-handled ‘Improve’ toothbrushes often distributed by dentists. My friends order them a dozen at a time. And I’m about to start.”

P S 0 0 8

DD COUNCIL
NOMINATION

Life & Style

The organization by helping us control clutter

By JURA KONCIUS
THE WASHINGTON POST

“Clutter,” said Peter Walsh, “is a huge national problem. People are being subverted by their stuff.”

An apt audience at the Capital Home & Garden Show, some listening notes, hung on every word of the dynamic organizer on “Clean Sweep,” TLC’s hit home-organization show. His 150 listeners at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Va., last week nodded in agreement, like sinners at a revival.

“I live in a townhouse in Manassas (Va.), and all three floors are cluttered,” confessed listener Carol Allen, a computer expert and religious watcher of “Clean Sweep.” “I have boxes I haven’t unpacked since I moved in 1994.” Allen, who admits to a particular problem with Baltimore Orioles memorabilia and Cal Ripken collectibles, scribbled down tips from Walsh (never keep more than three issues of one magazine). “I am so glad to see there are more people out there like me.”

Carol. You are definitely not alone.

A massive industry has sprung up around the clutter weighing down America’s bedside tables, kitchen drawers, garages, playrooms and bookshelves. According to the International Housewares Association, Americans spent more than \$5 billion on space and closet organizers in 2002, an increase of 19 percent over the previous five years.

Maybe misery loves company, because reality-TV fans in vast numbers also tune in to watch other people being publicly humiliated by their disorder. Besides “Clean Sweep,” in which merciless hosts direct participants to sort belongings into piles labeled “toss,” “keep” or “sell,” there is HGTV’s “Mission Organization,” which brings before-and-after order to chaotic homes; and “Clean House” on Style Network, where hosts “containerize” people’s stuff one room at a time. The shows are hugely successful: “Clean Sweep” and “Mission Organization” are both on their channel’s top 10 list of shows.

The cut-the-clutter movement has pushed into publishing circles as well. Real Simple, a magazine whose circulation has quadrupled since its launch four years ago to 1.55 million, entices readers not with advice about how to lose weight or have great sex but “When to Throw Things Out.”

Books such as “Smart Storage” by Joanna Copestick and Meryl Lloyd (Ryland Peters & Small, 128 pp., \$19.95) feature beautiful photos showing how to stash hairbrushes in baskets or set up a home office filing system in galvanized metal boxes. Plenty of how-to-organize videos are available for those who would rather watch than read.

Professional organizers have become the personal trainers of the 21st century, charging from \$40 to \$200 an hour to offer support, direction and solutions to people’s item-control issues: You can pay a lot to have someone force you to toss.

The underlying message to this rising clutter-busting chorus is that while it can feel good to buy more, it can also



THE WASHINGTON POST

Shoppers at the opening of the Container Store last week in Washington head out with their purchases. Here, Judie Stone piles her cart high.

feel good to have less. And if you just can’t part with it, buy a storage tub for it.

Retailers, rest assured, have just the size you need. The Container Store, the mother ship of organizing essentials, sold more than 2 million clear storage boxes last year. Last Saturday, the store, which first opened in Dallas in 1978, flung open the doors to its latest local location in Washington. Now there are 31 stores selling more than 10,000 products promising to bring order to every nook and cranny of your home.

Kip Tindell, president and CEO and one of the original Container Store founders, is projecting sales of \$370 million in 2004. Sales have grown 20 percent to 25 percent a year on average for the past 26 years. “We are all so busy now and have so many things,” Tindell said. “The store is about saving time, not just space. If you bring order to what you have, you feel secure.” The promise of a sense of order is what has turned the Container Store into a powerhouse in retailing. Said Tindell, “It’s hard to multi-task when you are looking for your keys.”

Melissa Reiff, executive vice president of stores and marketing, says the store’s target customer is a well-educated, well-traveled woman age 24 to 54 with a household income of more than \$100,000.

“The common theme: She is busy, busy, busy,” said Reiff. First Lady Laura

Bush is a regular customer in the Austin store. The TV organizing shows regularly call for Container Store stock for their makeovers. (Look for Container Store stuff on upcoming episodes of the popular Bravo series “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.”)

Another major player in the organizing world is Williams-Sonoma’s Hold Everything, which has been around since 1983. The company, known for higher-end products, has a catalog it says reaches 24 million households a year. The chain recently revamped offerings to include more stylish, colorful and fashion-oriented merchandise, such as cornflower-blue cotton canvas shoe holders and steel bins on casters to hold sports equipment.

Organized Living, a 25-store chain that was launched in Kansas in 1985, sells products for home and office including an 46-gallon container (\$39.99) that looks like a plastic coffin (attention Tony Soprano) and is big enough to hold a Christmas tree. One sign of the times: an under-cabinet-mounted paper-plate dispenser called Pop a Plate (\$6.79).

Containers to corral the stuff of life are plentiful from Target to Safeway. At Pier 1 Imports, buyers have recently added storage baskets designed to hold CDs, DVDs and files. “We’ve been working on our basket department to add new finishes from dark and natural wicker, to bamboo, water hyacinth,

There’s a place for

Everyone knows to expect dust and disruption during a renovation project. When the plasterboard is coming down around you, here are a few products that might bring a little order to the inevitable chaos.

Office in a box

The portable Eldon Simplefile Box Office contains a storage compartment in its cover and holds up to 15 pounds of letter-size folders and hanging files. It measures 11 1/8 by 14 3/4 by 11 1/4 inches, and costs \$12.99 at Staples.

Paper protector

The book-cloth storage collection from Hold Everything includes a photo storage box with 12 dividers, a three-drawer document box, medium and large art boxes for oversized documents and a magazine butler. Items are sold separately, ranging in price from \$19 to \$59, and come with acid-free lining so papers don’t stick together or yellow. Call (800) 421-2264, or visit the Web site www.holdeverything.com.

Files and more files

This corrugated cardboard filing system from Stacks and Stacks Home-ware of California keeps documents vertical and flat, and comes in three sizes priced from \$54.99 to \$99.99. The 13-pocket document file box (not shown) includes index tabs and preprinted and blank inserts. It measures 10 by 8 by 13 1/2 inches, and costs \$8.99. And the frosted file box features a hinged lid and snap-down latch. It’s available in assorted colors and measures 11 by 13 1/2 by 10 1/4 inches and costs \$14.99. All items from www.stacksandstacks.com, call (866) 376-6856; to request a catalog, call (800) 761-5222.

Better binders

Recyclable archival-safe plastic binders from Unikeep of Ohio have as many as five compartments. They hold 8 1/2-by-11-inch documents and range in thickness from 1/2 inch to 5 inches. The smallest is molded to snap shut; larger models come with snapping hinges. They’re stackable and cost between \$5.50 and \$6.50 each.

Staples and Office Depot carry the smaller sizes. Visit www.unikeep.com or call (800) 829-8117 for a dealer.

leather and pandan leaf,” said Patrick Farrell, the company’s merchandising director for home furnishings.

Pam Danziger is a marketing consultant and author of the 2002 book “Why People Buy Things They Don’t Need.” She argues that 9/11 has made Americans question our hyper-consumer society. “For the past 20 years, we’ve had the cocooning mind-set. We’ve filled our emotional empty spaces with things and our homes with all kinds of decorative objects, pillows, throws, figurines and collections,” she said. “What used to be warm and fuzzy and cozy-looking looks cluttered, confused and disorganized. We’ve filled up our homes; now we have to do something with it.”

Organizing—the urge to purge—has become the new dieting, with the firm resolutions and wobbly backsliding we all can relate to. Just as would-be dieters lie in bed reading about the South Beach Diet while snacking on Oreos, clutterholics delve into the latest special issue from Martha Stewart Living: “Organizing Good Things: 100 Ways to Unclutter Your Home” (\$3.50) while surrounded by baskets of laundry and mountains of newspapers. (Ouch. Clutter is the least of Martha’s worries right now.)

Most shelter magazines now routinely include features on how to organize closets and kitchens. But Real Simple, launched by Time Inc., in March 2000, has become the magazine of choice for the tidy and the tidy wannabe. “Organizing is incredibly

satisfying for a broad range of people; it goes across all demographics,” said Kristin van Ogtrop, managing editor of Real Simple. “It’s an easy and relatively cheap and completely attainable way to feel a sense of control.”

The magazine is preparing a book called “Real Simple: The Organized Home” and planning a series of Get Organized America events, which are rallies for consumers to clean up clutter and donate it to be sold, with proceeds benefiting a local charity.

For those who can afford it, professional help is available. Membership in the National Association of Professional Organizers (www.napo.net) has swelled from five people when it was founded in 1985 to 2,200 today. According to Barry Izsak, president of the Austin-based group, full-time organizers can make from \$40,000 to \$200,000 a year.

People are flocking to the profession because of the popularity of TV makeover shows and because Americans can’t stop buying, he says. NAPO is a voluntary membership organization, and Izsak, whose business is called Arranging It All, says new members often come from service industries such as teaching, nursing and personnel administration.

“Business is unbelievable. On January 5, the first Monday of the new year, I got 28 phone calls looking for help,” said Ellen Epstein, a Chevy Chase, Md., professional organizer whose business is called Concierge America. “When people get in their door, they want to

Daughter deserves to know that dad is in the slammer

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY:

I have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter I'll call "Maya" who adores her father. "John" and I were together for more than eight years and have been apart for about a year. During our last year together, he was caught selling drugs and was convicted of possession and distribution, as well as possession of an illegal weapon. I knew nothing of this until he was arrested. (I worked while he was a stay-at-home dad.)



Dear Abby

John is now serving a four-year sentence in federal prison. However, he tells Maya that he is in "Daddy School," and when he gets home she will live with him.

Abby, I have struggled long and hard to get back on my feet after paying all of John's legal bills and finding a place for Maya and me to live. Should I tell her where her father really is, and that she won't be living with him but can visit him? (He will be living with his mother again when they let him out.)

He keeps telling Maya how much fun they'll have together. I want her to love John and have a good relationship with him, but I don't want to lose her. What's the answer?

WORRIED MOTHER IN TEXAS

DEAR MOTHER: Your daughter deserves to know the truth about her father—that he did something that was against the law, and he is now paying for it. If you go along with his lie, Maya will have good reason to believe that everything John is telling her is the truth—including the part about where she is going to live.

Your next step should be to discuss child custody with an attorney. Since it appears that you and John are not married, and he is not contributing financially to Maya's welfare, I fail to see how he can claim the right to have her live with him. A lawyer can help you make sure it doesn't happen, so please waste no time in contacting one. It will ease your mind, and that's what is important right now.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Jeff," is 35 and I'm 41. We've been married 10 years.

Jeff is an excellent provider. He spends quality time with the children and will do anything I ask.

I have only one problem. Every gift occasion—anniversary, Christmas, Valentine's Day or birthday—Jeff buys me an outfit I consider trashy. His most recent gift was a black leather miniskirt and bustier, black mesh stockings and thigh-high boots. When I asked Jeff where he expected me to wear that stuff, he said, "On a date with me—or in our bedroom."

Is it healthy for Jeff to have those fantasies?

NOT A SLUT IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR NOT: Oui, oui, Madame—as long as the fantasies include you!

■ ■ ■ ■

WORTH REMEMBERING: "To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves."—Will and Ariel Durant

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pavarotti saying goodbye to opera

By RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — This is the finale, Luciano Pavarotti said of Saturday's "Tosca," one last opera on stage after more than four decades of the high Cs that transformed him from an insurance salesman to perhaps the most widely beloved classical singer ever.

All 4,000 tickets had been sold for Saturday night's production at the Metropolitan Opera House, the stage that made Pavarotti famous as the tenor with the big belly and super-sized smile.

He had said last summer that this would be his final staged performance at the Met. During an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Pavarotti went a step farther: It was his final night of staged opera anywhere.

"Tomorrow is a very important day," the 68-year-old Italian said at his apartment overlooking Central Park. "It is the last performance on the stage."

Just at the Met?

"Anywhere, I think," he said. "I think it's time."

He said back in 2002 that he intended to stop singing completely on Oct. 12, 2005, his 70th birthday.

His opera performances had been dwindling to a precious few: four in London in January 2002 and one in Berlin last June.

Last weekend, two years after a pair of famous cancellations at the Met caused by a cold, Pavarotti returned for the first of three appearances as Mario Cavaradossi, the young painter in Puccini's "Tosca," with Carol Vaness in the title role, Jams Morris as the evil police chief Scarpia and Met artistic director James Levine conducting.

While reviewers said he was nearly immobile and his voice lacked the bloom of youth, they also were struck by moments when the distinctive, sweet ringing sound was still there, the voice that sold millions of recordings. He was far looser at Wednesday's performance.

On Saturday night, he received a 35-second ovation when he walked on stage and appeared to be overcome with emotion as he started his first aria, "Recondita armonia." His voice sounded somewhat constricted and he kept his eyes closed for much of the time, appearing to revel in the moment. There was



AP

Tenor Luciano Pavarotti reacts during an interview in his New York apartment Friday. In an interview, Pavarotti, 68, said his performance at the Metropolitan Opera on Saturday, March 13, 2004 would be his final night of staged opera anywhere.

a two-minute ovation at the end of the first act.

His big third-act aria was followed by another two-minute ovation as flashbulbs popped throughout the house. At the conclusion of the opera, there was an 11-minute ovation that featured four solo curtain calls as everyone from the orchestra to the standing room section applauded and yelled "Bravo."

He sounded wistful when explaining his decision to leave the opera stage, where he debuted in Italy in 1961.

"Certainly, if I hear myself in the performance of (Wednesday) night, I have to say, 'Why are you leaving?' And the answer is because I should be lighter and be able to run on the stage. And one day, in one year, if I am able to run on the stage, perhaps I don't retire. Who knows? Who knows? Miracles can happen."

He has had a special relationship with the Met. Saturday's performance was his 379th with the company, far more than any other. He has sung 140 times at Milan's La Scala, 100 at London's Royal Opera, 76 each with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the San Francisco Opera, 48 at the Opera de Paris and 45 at the Vienna State Opera.

His preference for the Met stems from his relationship with Levine and Joseph Volpe, who has run the company since 1990.

"There is a kind of intriguing affair between the three of us, that made me want to come here and made me very sad to leave,"

he said.

But it's much more than that. He points out his window toward Central Park and smiles.

"Give a look to this park," he said. "That is the first answer. New York is not a city, it is a person. It is a friend if you work here well."

He remembered his first Met performance, in Puccini's "La Boheme" on Nov. 23, 1968. He sang with the flu and the reviews were just so-so.

"It was not a great debut, not at all," he said.

A few days later, he couldn't finish his second performance and felt crushed when he talked to Rudolf Bing, the Met general manager.

"I said, 'Well, I'm finished. My life is finished to do my debut at the Met like that. Destroyed.' He says, 'No, no, no. You will come back next year, you will come back with "Lucia" and other performances, you will do beautifully.'"

He did. And in 1972, he nailed the nine high Cs in Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment," becoming a worldwide phenomenon. Then, on March 15, 1977, he inaugurated the Met's broadcasts on PBS in "La Boheme" with soprano Renata Scotto.

"The year before, I was walking on the street, nobody recognized me at all. Nobody. I was Mr. Nothing," he said. "But the day after the performance on the television, everybody stopped me and everybody applauded me."

And then I understand the power of television, and I realized what means television, and I began to make love to television, to have television on my side, to devote myself to television."

He appeared in 19 Met television broadcasts and 33 radio programs. He went on "The Tonight Show" starring Johnny Carson, made opera an event in 31 "Three Tenors" concerts with Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras, and sang to hundreds of thousands in Central Park and London's Hyde Park.

Pavarotti eventually sang 20 roles at the Met.

But, with age, there was decline. Because of bad knees and hips, stagings had to be changed. He sat on chairs and hid cups of water on sets.

"Let's say that in the last 10 years there are a lot of performances that are not super," he said. "They are very good - like many other tenors would have liked to do - but still, they are not super."

Like Joe DiMaggio on the baseball field, he felt he had to live up to his highest standards because someone might be seeing him for the only time.

His reward came during curtain calls when he heard the shouts of "Bravo!"

What goes through his mind then?

"They love me," he said. "I love them. It's a mutual affair."

'Wardrobe malfunction' is top phrase

DANVILLE, Calif. (AP) — The Janet Jackson bare breast incident during the Super Bowl halftime show is among this year's events recognized as changing the way we speak.

A group that analyzes the latest trends in word usage declared "wardrobe mal-function" as Hol-

lywood's Top Word or Phrase for Impact on the English language.

"There is no question that Hollywood has had a profound impact upon word choice and usage for Global English," said Paul JJ Payack, President of the Global Language Monitor. "'Wardrobe Malfunction' is but one example of a phrase

that is destined to outlive the football game with which it is associated."

The phrase became famous after Justin Timberlake snatched off part of Jackson's bustier on stage, revealing a breast clad only in a sun-shaped "nipple shield" in front of some 89 mil-

lion viewers.

Timberlake issued a statement shortly after the show apologizing and blaming the debacle on a "wardrobe malfunction."

Team Standings		
Group A		
SIP-Verizon	4	0
Bayani	2	2
SMF	2	2
CCA	2	2
MDX	0	4
Group B		
Visminda	4	1
Cabalen	4	1
Mobil-LIPS	4	1
Bicol	1	3
MIFICPA	1	3
Samahang Laguna	0	5



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Yankees	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	7
Academy	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	8

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hamilton leads Honda Classic by 4 strokes

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

The Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Trailing by four shots at

one point Saturday, Todd Hamilton walked off Mirasol with a four-stroke lead after making a birdie on the final hole for a 4-under 68 at the Honda classic.

He owes much of that lead to Carl Pettersson, who lost the lead and lost control with a five-putt from 40 feet on the 16th hole that sent him to a 76, five shots behind.

"Just a mental block," Pettersson said. "I'll try to forget about it and play well tomorrow."

Hamilton was at 14-under 202 and will play in the final group with Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden, who had a 70.

Chris Riley, who has not made a bogey in his last 43 holes on the Sunrise course, holed a 5-foot par putt on the final hole for a 68 that also left him five shots behind.

The notorious south Florida wind finally arrived, and everyone said it would lead to some unpredictable golf. It got downright goofy at the end of the day.

It started with Pettersson and his five putts. It ended with Hamilton being taken to the television trailer after his round because a viewer reported what he thought was an infraction.

The TV viewer said Hamilton realigned his ball on the 11th green after having

picked up his coin.

"I would never do that," Hamilton said, and replays showed that he never adjusted his ball.

The only outside comment Hamilton could trust was the guy that came up to him as he headed to the 18th tee.

"This guy comes up and says, 'Hey, you've got a three-shot lead. Pettersson just five-putted,'" Hamilton said. "You never think a guy is going to tell you that. I didn't know what to think. Maybe he had a bet with someone."

Sure enough, the leaderboard showed Pettersson at 10 under, and the 26-year-old Swede dropped another shot on the par-5 17th to fall further behind.

"It was nice to get that extra shot," Hamilton said of his 15-foot birdie putt.

Everything will help, considering it took Hamilton 17 years to get to this stage. A victory would open the door to marquee events like The Players Championship in two weeks, and give him an exemption for the next two years.

Hamilton, an All-American at Oklahoma in the 1980s, had played only a dozen PGA Tour events until he finally got his card at Q-school last year.

But he knows how to win, as does Jacobson.

Hamilton is coming off his best year on the Japan PGA Tour, winning four times. Jacobson won three times on the European tour.

"Winning breeds winning," Hamilton said. "It will help both of us."

As for the wind?

That could make it anyone's game.

Davis Love III finished with a 70 and joined Tom Pernice and Aaron Baddeley at 8-under 208. Robert Allenby had a 67 and was among a half-dozen players another shot back.

And as Saturday proved, anything can happen.

"It could be difficult to protect a lead," Hamilton said. "Or you can expand your lead that much more."

Riley is the only player in the final two groups with a PGA Tour victory. That came two years ago at the Reno-Tahoe Open, when the world's best players were at a World Golf Championship the same week.

"They've never won before," Riley said. "So there's going to be a little pressure on them."

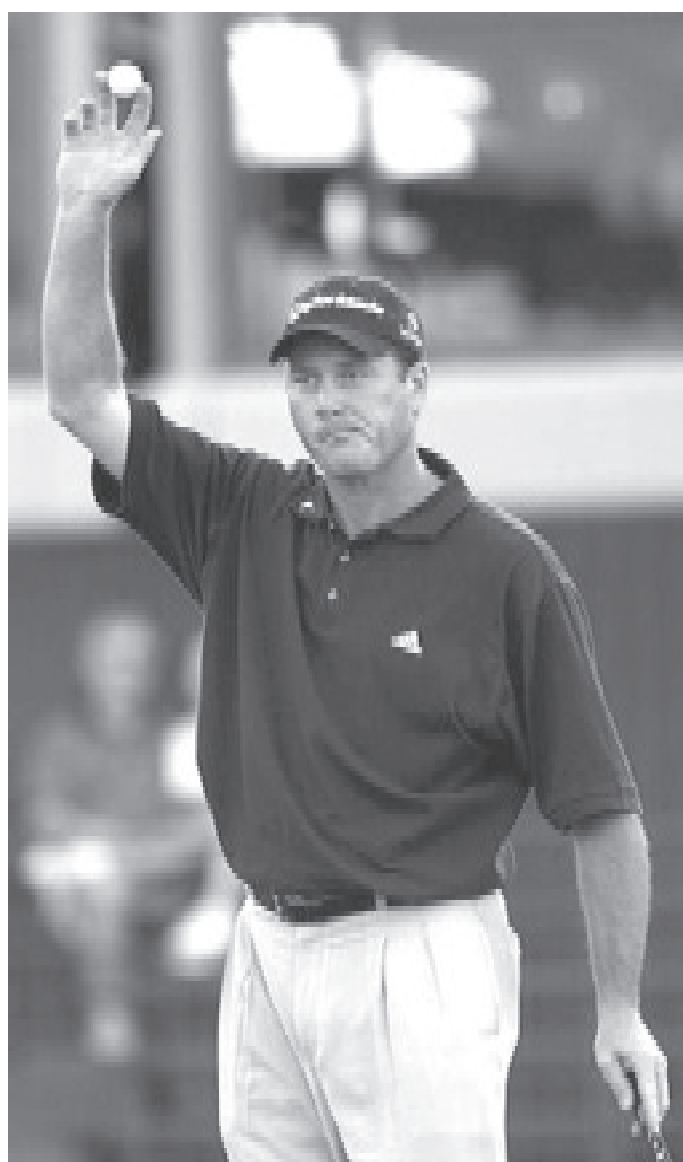
The wind finally showed up not long after Pettersson teed off, although it didn't seem to bother the stocky Swede. He made two 7-foot par putts, then holed a birdie putt from 45 feet on the par-3 third.

Hamilton made sure that Pettersson didn't have the Honda Classic all to himself.

After missing a 2-foot par putt on the second hole, Hamilton quickly closed the gap by running off four straight birdies, then pulled into a tie with a 30-foot birdie on the par-3 eighth.

Pettersson, the leader since opening with a 63 in the first round, showed signs of cracking when he missed 4-foot par putts on the 12th and 14th.

But nothing was quite as damaging as the 16th.



Todd Hamilton acknowledges the crowd at the 18th hole during the third round of the Honda Classic on Saturday, March 13, 2004, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

He ran his 40-foot birdie putt some 15 feet by the hole, then rapped his par putt 4 feet past the hole. From there, it was like watching instant replay until he finally tapped it for his

triple bogey.

His confidence rattled, Pettersson pulled his wedge into a bunker and bogeyed the 17th.

No. 2 Stanford wins Pac-10, NCAA berth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matt Lottich had 20 points, six rebounds and five assists, and second-ranked Stanford defeated Washington 77-66 Saturday to win its first Pac-10 tournament title and a berth to the NCAA tournament for the 10th consecutive season.

"You got to love Matt Lottich," Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said. "He's got so much pride in himself and so much competitiveness. He made some huge shots, as always."

The Cardinal (29-1) are virtually assured of a top seed in the West Region when the pairings are announced Sunday, along with a trip to Seattle for their first game.

"You take a great deal of pride if we should happen to go into the NCAA tournament as a No. 1 seed," Montgomery said. "It also means zippo starting next week."

The Cardinal donned white caps proclaiming them champions while fans chanted "six more wins" — the number Stanford needs to win the national championship.



Stanford's Matt Lottich drives to the basket against Washington's Will Conroy during the first half of Pac-10 tournament's title game Saturday, March 13, 2004, in Los Angeles.

"We wanted to win it to prove we're the best team in the Pac-10," Lottich said.

A week ago, Washington spoiled Stanford's bid for a perfect season with a 75-62 victory in Seattle. The loss knocked the Cardinal from the No. 1 ranking, which they're likely to regain after previously unbeaten Saint Joseph's lost to Xavier by 20 points in the Atlantic-10 quar-

terfinals.

"We wanted to avenge our only loss of the season," said Josh Childress, the Pac-10 player of the year and tourney MVP. "I was fired up. I'm definitely glad we got to play them again."

The second-seeded Huskies (19-11) desperately wanted to win their first-ever conference tourney title to get into

the NCAA tournament without contention. Now, their fate lies in the selection committee's hands. But their chances appear good since they've won 14 of their last 17 games.

"I'm confident we're going to be in," Huskies coach Lorenzo Romar said. "We've done every-thing to impress the committee, to show that we're worthy. Will we get in? We'll be sitting in front of that television waiting."

Washington outscored Stanford 9-6 to start the second half and get within three points after trailing by six at the break.

Then Stanford ran off eight unanswered points for a 59-48 lead. Jason Haas drove the lane, Joe Kirchofer and Lottich scored inside baskets and Kirchofer scored again for Stanford's largest lead of the game.

Lottich said his two-point, 1-of-11 shooting performance in the loss to Washington wasn't on his mind Saturday.

"It was just one of those nights where the ball was going down for me," he said. "Guys did a good job of rotating the ball to me."

Washington never got closer than five points after that. Stanford's size advantage inside,

along with Lottich's perimeter shooting wore down the Huskies. The Cardinal controlled the boards 42-33 and held a 48-26 scoring edge in the paint.

"They don't make too many mistakes," Romar said. "In the second half, they really did a great job defending us. We hung around and hung around and just didn't have enough to get over the hump."

Childress added 14 points and nine rebounds. Justin Davis had 13 points and Kirchofer had 11 points and eight rebounds.

Nate Robinson, the 5-foot-9 guard who fearlessly drove the lane against Stanford's big men, led the Huskies with 16 points and five assists. Bobby Jones and Mike Jensen added 11 points each.

The quicker and more athletic Huskies forced a frenetic tempo in the first half. They made 12 of their first 17 shots before cooling to 40 percent shooting for the game. Stanford's bigger and deeper lineup did its best to keep pace even when the Cardinal trailed by six points about six minutes into the game.

Stanford took its first lead of the game on a 12-0 run capped by Lottich's 3-pointer that made

John Smoltz looks strong in spring training



John Smoltz looked as good as

ever in his first outing since offseason elbow surgery.

J.D. Drew has been unstoppable all spring.

Smoltz needed only seven pitches to retire the side Saturday and Drew hit another home run, leading an Atlanta Braves split squad to a 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees in Kissimmee, Fla.

"It was a little nerve racking, even after 17 seasons of doing this, but I felt really good about it," Smoltz said. "I wanted to go out there and be smooth and obviously I was."

Smoltz invited his good friend Tiger Woods to watch him pitch and put on an efficient display. The All-Star closer threw six strikes in getting two groundouts and a soft fly in the sixth inning, his first appearance of the spring.

"That was perfect," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "He threw just like he has been throwing in the bullpen - excellent. His delivery is so good, I'm not surprised at all."

Woods watched the game with his girlfriend, eating popcorn, and was impressed by his buddy.

"John is so competitive in everything he does—whether it's baseball, golf, ping pong or anything. He hates to lose and his preparation and thoroughness really sets him apart. After watching him on the golf course, I can see why he has had so much success in baseball," Woods said.

Not to be outdone was Drew, the star of spring training so far.

He hit a three-run shot off Jorge DePaula for his fifth homer. Atlanta's new right fielder is 8-for-11 with 14 RBIs this March.

"He's hitting the ball so hard, it's really amazing," Cox said. "Everything he hits is right on the head."

Former Braves right fielder Gary Sheffield led New York with two singles and an RBI.

Yankees starter Jon Lieber pitched for the first time in 18 months. Lieber, who underwent Tommy John surgery in August 2003, faced nine hitters in two innings. He gave up three hits and two earned runs while striking out two. (AP)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Table tennis singles tourney tomorrow

The Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association is inviting the public to join the 2004 MATTA Open Singles Table Tennis Tournament.

The tournament will begin tomorrow and will continue throughout the rest of the month. It will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights at the multi-purpose room of the Gilbert C. Ada Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament format will be round-robin type of competition for the initial round where each participant will play all the other members of their division once.

Those who win the most games will move on to the elimination phase and playoffs.

Admission fee for the tournament will be \$10 per participant. Trophies will be presented to the winners of their respective divisions during an after-tournament dinner.

Children who wish to participate should inform their parents and ask for their consent. For more information please call Steve Lim at 483-7842.

21st Island Relay set for Dec. 28

Officials of the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay announced that this year's 13.7-mile team event is set to take place during the early morning hours of December 28.

The starting point of the course will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot. Participants will then head north and work their way to the finish line at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Interested teams may register at the starting point of the race, which will be at the Pacific Islands Club south parking lot in San Antonio. Registration begins at 5:15am.

Each team, which consists of five members, must switch runners every mile. It is also required that each team has at least one female participant or a participant who is under the age of 16 or in the senior division. Prior to competing, all teams must pay a fee of \$25.

For more information about the 21st Annual Christmas Island Relay, please contact Elias Rangamar at 234-1001 or 1002.

Budweiser Cup on Jan. 12

Officials of the much-awaited Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Budweiser Cup have decided to push back the kick of date of the 2003 island-wide men's basketball season to January 12 of next year.

So far, 10 teams have shown interest in participating in the league. Only eight, however, are confirmed to battle for the championship crown and the \$1,000 grand prize that goes along with it. Also at stake are the \$300 prize for the runner-up and the \$200 award for the second runner-up.

Each team interested in taking part in the season is required to pay an entrance fee of \$900 that must be payable to BANMI. Aside from the prizes awarded to the top three finishers, other prizes may be claimed through a half-court shot competition and a three-point contest.

For more information, please contact Rangamar at 664-2500 or Abner Venus at 234-5911.

SPG Council launches logo contest

The South Pacific Games Council Executive Board has announced that it will be selecting a new logo for the SPG Council. The winning logo will be selected from designs submitted through the national sports federations represented on the Council.

The contest is open to everyone. The general public is invited to submit design proposals. The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will select one or more of the designs submitted to it, for transmission to the SPG Council.

All entries should be submitted to NMASA President Michael A. White. The selection of a new design will take place at the SPG Council assembly in Palau next year.

For further information, please contact White at telephone 234-6547.

IT'S CABALEN

From Page 28

Construction 53-44.

First Game

UFO All-Stars 53—Mendiol 20, Malasarte 13, Pardinan 10, Gatdula 6, Canedo 4.

Bicol-RNV Construction 44—Jugos 15, Aldan 10, Abadilla 6, Lopez 6, Miday 5, Mumar 2.

Second Game

Cabalen-RP Construction

121—Mendoza 25, Delos Reyes 35, Ocampo 13, Alipio 12, Arnedo 12, Jo. Gatdula 6, Magcalas 5, Sinca 3, Barbo 2.

SIP-Verizon 103—R. Alegre 19, Mendoza 18, Guiab 14, Factor 13, Rapanut 13, Villacrusis 9, T. Alegre 7, Tamondong 5, Flores 3, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-27, 59-50, 90-79, 121-103.

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER



Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.

The Olangapo, Zambales native triumphed three straight times after getting a bye in the opening round then turned back a courageous effort by Ike Celis to win the Tuesday 8-ball plum.

Sequioco first victimized Cherish Reyes in the second round before getting the better of Celis in the next round. He then slammed perennial pool winner Manny Mariano in the winners' bracket final to secure the first finals berth and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage.

Celis, for his part, had to work double time after being relegated to losers' bracket play by the crafty Sequioco.

The silver-haired Celis rebounded quickly and nicely by first beating Round Two owner Don Pangelinan. He then eliminated top lady player Rosemarie Moses-Arnold before moving on to the losers' bracket final opposite Mariano.

The outing against Mariano was where Celis truly shone, as the veteran pool player shocked the Filipino cue artist and arranged a championship round



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Third place Manny Mariano, Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament champion Boyet Sequioco, and runner-up Ike Celis.

meeting with third round conqueror Sequioco.

Unfortunately for Celis his sparkling run apparently ran out in the deciding match against Sequioco, allowing the Hafa Adai security guard to come away with the weekly pool title. He won a handsome trophy and the \$40 top prize for his efforts.

Celis settled for the \$25 runner-up purse, while Mariano took home the \$15 third place prize. All three men also got souvenir

caps from Pacific Trading Co.

Other billiard players that graced the Tuesday 8-ball competition were Gary Ridley, Lars and Palacios.

The Round Two 8-Ball Tournament is held every Tuesday starting at 8pm and has an entry fee of \$10.

Round Two also regularly hosts two other pool tournaments through the course of the week. Its winner-take-all pool tournament is held every Sunday start-

ing at 1pm and costs \$5 to join.

On Thursdays, Round Two holds the exciting Miller Lite Invitational 8-Ball Tournament starting at 8pm. Entry fee is \$15 on regular days but goes up to \$25 every last Thursday of the month.

For more information on Round Two's tournaments, please contact Don Pangelinan at 234-6930.

ROCBALL

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program, which features shows on different sports from around the world, would like to attain footage, pictures, and information of Rocball for airing.

Feger also confirmed that he will send a couple of videotapes, information about the history of the sport, rules, and several articles and news clippings to Chimienti.

Eurosport reaches over 95 million homes in 54 countries.

Also being attracted to the sport is Brian Meredith, an operation manager for CrackerJax, a sports-theme amusement park in Scottsdale, Arizona.

LOVE

From Page 28

20 feet and 15 feet for birdies on the next two holes, then easily reached the par-5 11th with a 5-iron to set up his fourth straight birdie.

"I had my pompoms out, cheering him on," Woods said. "I told him on the 10th tee I was two ahead. He said, 'How's that?' I told him I was getting a stroke a hole."

Love smiled when asked about Woods' comments.

"I didn't want to stick my hand in the cage and ask him if he wanted strokes," Love said.

Indeed, Love put seven shots between him and Woods over the first nine holes, and it left himself

Meredith stated in his letter to Feger that he is currently searching for ways to make their three volleyball courts useful, and was intrigued after coming across some information about Rocball while browsing through the Internet.

Meredith added that he is trying to modify the courts to Rocball standards and is working towards starting a Rocball league.

"I can't believe that nobody in America plays this sport," Meredith stated.

Last year, Feger scheduled a special match featuring 2001 and 2002 champions DX and Jammers, which was taped and sent to the Fox Sports Show "You Gotta See This." Fox Sports

Show's Associate Producer Eric Hopkins expressed his interest in the sport. Camera crews were set up at courtside and on the roof of the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

He also sent a couple of videotapes, written information, and graphics to the Rocball Federation of India.

In related news, the World Organized Rocball Inter-scholastic and Community League's 2004 season is set to get underway on January 12.

Teams will engage in several practice rounds prior to seeing battle in the preliminary rounds, which is expected to kick off just a couple of weeks later.

All interested players are

in great position to become the first repeat winner of the Target World Challenge since Woods created it five years ago.

Love won in 2000 with a 64 in the final round.

It would be a great way to end his best season on tour. Love won four times, and no victory bigger than his final-round 64 at The Players Championship on a cold, windy day at Sawgrass.

While this tournament only counts in the bank - \$1.2 million of the \$5 million purse going to the winner - a victory would be meaningful coming against a 16-man field of high-ranked players and three of the four major champions.

Plus, Love has played the

last two rounds with Woods, a situation that in the past hasn't allowed him to play his best.

Love has worked all year to worry about only his own game. In fact, he was having dinner with friends Friday night when they told him to beat Woods.

"K.J. is the guy to beat right now," Love said. "People don't see it the way we do. You've got to beat the golf course."

Harrington missed a 3-foot par putt on the final hole for a 70 and was in third place at 211, six shots behind. Masters champion Mike Weir, who opened with a 75, had a 3-under 69 and was at 212.

Choi is making his first appearance in the final event of

encouraged to begin organizing squads for the league, which unlike other sporting events, doesn't require an entrance fee.

All matches will be played at the Marianas High School Green Court. Should Mother Nature interrupt with wet showers, matches will be played at the school's gym.

Feger began organizing and writing about the sport while in Japan in 1979. After two years of experimenting, the sport finally progressed into a tournament in 1983.

For more information, please contact Feger at 664-3810 or 288-8722.

the year, and would like nothing better to end his season with a victory - even though it doesn't count in the record books and won't get him back to Kapalua.

"It would be even better ... because of the field," Choi said.

Catching up to Love could require a great round, especially the way Love is playing. The calm, warmer conditions allowed the ball to travel farther and the power hitters to play more aggressively.

Love's only bogey came on a three-putt from 15 feet, when his eyes saw only the hole and not the speed of the putt; he ran it 8 feet by and missed the par putt.

"Other than that, I felt like I could make birdie on every hole," Love said. "And I almost did."



Trail Blazers defeat the Lakers, 112-108

Damon Stoudamire hit two 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss in two nights with a 112-108 victory Saturday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sequioco tops Tuesday pool

Boyet Sequioco put together another perfect run last Tuesday to win the Round Two 8-Ball Fun Tournament that evening at the pioneering sports bar.



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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's Cabalen against Visminda

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Cabalen - R P Construction reaffirmed their mastery over SIP-Verizon dethroning the three-time defending champion with a 121-103 rout Sunday night that secured them a finals ticket opposite Visminda-Country House in the 2003 UFO Miller Lite Cup championship.

The Transamerica-backed squad atoned for a shaky start, which had them trail SIP-Verizon 27-24 after the opening quarter, with a terrific second quarter.

Big man Ronald Delos Reyes, the goat in Cabalen's 103-108 loss to Visminda last week, came back strong and hit a couple of triples in the second stanza to start the fireworks for Cabalen.

Youthful center Ryan Mendoza, meanwhile, complemented Delos Reyes' sharpshooting ways by scoring 12 points from point blank range also in the second quarter.

The combination of efficient outside shooting and strong inside play translated to a 59-50 halftime advantage for Cabalen.

RP Construction dethrones SIP, 121-103

SIP-Verizon, whose players came in late due to a mix-up in scheduling, continued to take on water and struggled mightily in the second half.

Cabalen's aggressive game had their opponents on the defensive during the early part of the third period. Another 3-pointer by Delos Reyes at the 8:03 mark of the quarter gave Cabalen its biggest lead so far at 68-54.

A few plays later, Mendoza struck again on the inside to pad their edge further at 72-54 with 6:47 remaining in the period.

Following a putback by Delos Reyes on a miss free throw off a 3-point opportunity by Mendoza, the score stood at 89-68 with less than two minutes left in the third.

But SIP-Verizon was far from gone and retaliated with an 11-3 burst to close the quarter that cut their deficit to 90-79.

Cabalen's Mendoza also chipped in to SIP-Verizon's cause, inadvertently making a layup on SIP-Verizon's basket after an inbound play following a timeout with 31 ticks to go.

The big end-game rally, however, didn't materialize for

SIP-Verizon as Cabalen thwarted all attempts at an uprising and maintained their healthy lead all throughout the final quarter.

There were still a lot of scary moments though. With Cabalen up 96-84, SIP-Verizon forward Gary Rapanut missed a routine layup that could've cut the lead to 10 points.

At the 5:31 mark of the game Edsel Mendoza missed two tries from the free throw line and in the succeeding SIP-Verizon offensive, newly arrived Leo Factor missed the bonus free throw on a 3-point play that could've slashed Cabalen's lead again to 10 points.

With SIP-Verizon still within striking distance swingman Junar Guiab was hit with his fifth personal foul with 4:05 to go. Shortly after Factor followed him to the showers.

Playing-coach Rick Alegre's coast-to-coast layup made it 108-97 with 2:52 left in the game but that appeared to be SIP-Verizon's last gasp as Cabalen went on a 9-2 tear highlighted by an off-balanced 3-point play by Randy Arnedo that, for all intents

and purpose, sealed the game at 117-99 with 1:33 remaining.

Mendoza earned Miller Lite MVP of the Game honors after scoring 35 points, which was the same output submitted by Delos Reyes. Veterans Alex

Ocampo, Jun Alipio added 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Rick Alegre topscored for SIP-Verizon with 19 points. Edsel Mendoza chipped in 16 points and Guiab 14 before fouling out.

In the first game, the UFO All-Stars finally notched a win after beating Bicol Express-RNV

See IT'S CABALEN on Page 27



Rocball gains interest yet again

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Saipan's very own sport, Roc-ball, is steadily gaining more interest from the outside world.

This was learned late last week after founder and organizer James Feger announced that he has received e-mails from a couple organizations, Eurosport TV and a sports amusement park in Arizona, interested in gaining more information about the sport.

Eurosport, the most widely available sports channel in Europe, has made contact with Feger and has shown interest in learning more about the sport for future broadcasting.

In an e-mail letter to Feger, Pablo Chimienti of Eurosport's weekly program WATTS, wrote that that the

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Love pulls away from Tiger at Sherwood

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER



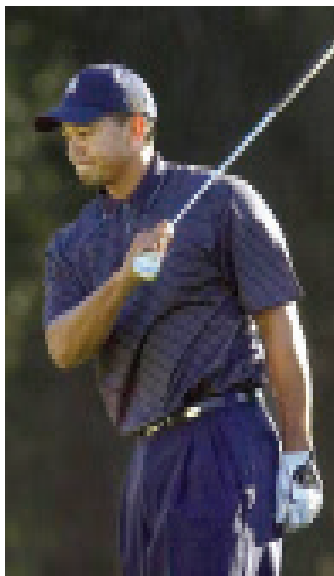
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP) — Davis Love III made four straight birdies to leave Tiger Woods in the dust and pull away from a world-class field Saturday, finishing with a 9-under 63 to build a three-shot lead in the Target World Challenge.

Despite a bogey on the par-3 17th, Love tied the tournament record set last year by Pádraig Harrington in the third round. Harrington built a record six-shot lead and hung on to win against Woods.

Love, at 11-under 205, only had a three-shot margin over K.J. Choi (65), although he won't have to worry about Woods.

As most of the leaders were posting birdies on a sunny, benign afternoon at Sherwood, the tournament host gave up ground with a three-putt bogey on No.



AP

Tiger Woods reacts to his approach shot on the 18th hole during the third round of the Target World Challenge, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, in Thousand Oaks,

3 and then hit his tee shot into the water for a bogey on the next hole.

Woods lost all hope on the final hole, hitting off the pine

straw and coming up well short, into the water, and he had to make a 15-footer for bogey. He had a 72 and was nine shots back at 214.

Meanwhile, Love played some of his best golf since early in the year.

"I was confident all day," Love said. "I'm getting more and more comfortable playing with Tiger and around the lead."

Love was tied with Choi and Justin Leonard when his 4-iron on the difficult par-3 8th climbed just enough to hop into the fringe and stop about 6 feet above the hole for one of only two birdies in the round.

Love holed putts for

See LOVE on Page 27

Cabalen-RP Construction's Ryan Mendoza attempts an undergoal stab against SIP-Verizon's Leo Factor during the third quarter of their do-or-die 2003 UFO Miller Lite match Sunday night.

